



No 3,634

THE INDEPENDENT

THURSDAY 11 JUNE 1998

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A killing in Klan country

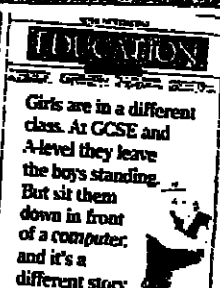
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Robert Fisk: Kosovo's tragedy

COVER STORY

What boys can teach the girls

INCLUDING 15 PAGES OF JOBS & FAST TRACK



New threat as beef ban is lifted

BY CHARLES ARTHUR and KATHERINE BUTLER in Brussels

BRITISH BEEF is safe to eat, the European Commission said yesterday - just as new scientific data emerged suggesting that beef in Britain and all over Europe may still be infected with mad cow disease.

The Commission yesterday gave its support to a scheme that would allow exports of British beef from BSE-free cattle born after August 1996. But simultaneously, a study from Switzerland revealed that for every cow found to have bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), 100 more may be harbouring a "silent" form of the illness.

If confirmed, the findings could deal a blow to hopes of reviving Britain's £500m beef export industry. That was choked off in March 1996, after the previous government admitted a link between BSE exposure and the fatal human illness of "new variant" Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (v-CJD).

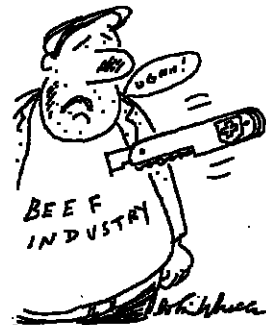
The Swiss findings suggest that many cattle which now go into food, or are used to make animal feed, are in fact still infectious, even though they are "subclinical" - that is, showing no signs of the disease.

The meat from such animals could be infectious, some scientists believe. Professor John Collinge, a leading British expert in BSE and CJD, told the BSE inquiry last week: "It may

be that there is rather more infectivity in muscle or other tissues in those (subclinical) animals, and that is why they do not have a brain disease."

It would also mean that any country which has had cases of BSE - which in Europe only excludes Italy - could have hundreds or even thousands of cattle which carry the disease, yet may not show it during their lives.

Professor Collinge said yes.



today: "If there's a substantial degree of subclinical infection, it could affect other countries. But I think measures in the UK are adequate."

If implemented, the Commission's decision could lead within months to the end of the worldwide export ban. The proposal is for a scheme to allow overseas sales of beef from BSE-free cattle born after August 1996.

Franz Fischler, the EU agriculture commissioner, steered the proposal through. Yesterday he said: "We do feel British beef

is safe. If we did not, we would not have made this recommendation."

Jack Cunningham, the agriculture minister, welcomed the proposal - but reminded farmers "it is only a proposal". He warned of tough negotiations ahead, adding that some of the conditions attached were "unnecessary and difficult".

These conditions would allow only deboned fresh meat from animals aged between 6 and 30 months, and born after 1 August 1996 - the date when meat and bone meal was banned. Calves of BSE-affected animals would still be banned, and all animals born after August 1996 to cows with BSE would have to be slaughtered.

Until the Swiss results emerged, the result had seemed a major political breakthrough for the British government. The data, reported today in *New Scientist*, result from the examination of the brains of healthy cows from herds slaughtered where one or more cases of BSE were found. Using a rapid test developed by the Zurich-based company Prionics, researchers found that eight of 1,761 apparently healthy cows were actually harbouring BSE.

This is more than 100 times the official rate of BSE in Switzerland. The Swiss government now aims to repeat the experiments among cattle from non-BSE herds, to see whether "silent" BSE exists generally among its national herd.

They think it's all started. It has now



Scotland's Gordon Durie kicks off the opening game of the 1998 World Cup, a match which his team went on to lose

David Ashdown

...with defeat for brave-hearted Scots

BY GLENN MOORE

THE PIPERS were playing a lament in the bars and cafés of Paris last night after Scotland began their World Cup campaign in customary fashion, with a heroic and unfortunate defeat. Drawn to play Brazil, the holders and favourites, in the tournament's opening game, they had appeared set for a heavy defeat when they conceded a goal after just four minutes.

However, they replied with a penalty from John Collins, of Monaco, shortly before half-time. They continued to match Brazil and went into the last quarter of the match threatening to achieve a shock victory. The thousands of killed supporters in the Stade de France, far more than the official allocation, hoped for an upset only

for the Scots to concede an own goal with 17 minutes left. It was scored off the chest of Tom Boyd, the Celtic defender, after a Brazilian shot had rebounded off goalkeeper Jim Leighton.

It was a harsh blow for the Aberdeen goalkeeper, 40 next month, who had made a series of fine saves in the early stages when Brazil had threatened to justify the pre-match predictions of tartan gloom.

Craig Brown, the Scottish coach, said: "You could tell how well we played by the way the Brazilians celebrated when they scored. That was a tribute to us."

Scotland now go to Bordeaux to play Norway on Tuesday. It is a match they must win to retain hopes of progressing to the second stage of the tournament for the first time in seven attempts. Brown added:

"We must win those games but we can play better."

Earlier Brazilian and Scottish fans, who enjoy a special relationship, had played football together in the parks around the new stadium. Long after the game, some remained and were allowed to pose for photographs on the pitch. Then it was off to the bars of the Champs-Élysées to celebrate and commiserate together.



Sir David English, the journalist's journalist, who died yesterday

David English of the Mail dies at 67

BY PAUL MCCANN Media Editor

SIR DAVID English, the most successful newspaper editor of his generation, died of a stroke in London yesterday.

Sir David, 67, is known to have been ill in recent months. He had suffered from recurring hepatitis and it is understood that the falling health of his wife had put him under strain. He was found collapsed at his London home on Tuesday morning and died in hospital yesterday afternoon.

He was editor-in-chief and chairman of Associated Newspapers, the publishers of the *Daily Mail*, the *Mail on Sunday* and the *London Evening Standard*. But it was as editor of the *Daily Mail* for 21 years that he made his greatest impact on British journalism.

For years the *Mail* had been the poor relation in the middle market to the all-conquering *Daily Express*. English rejuvenated the newspaper, taking it to a tabloid in 1971 and in particular targeting middle-England's

housewives. He also innovated, with bigger news-led features and magazine-style journalism.

He insisted that the newspaper know its readers perfectly and then reflect their tastes, interests and prejudices. Importantly, he also persuaded the newspaper's owner, Lord Rothermere, to invest heavily in a formidable news-gathering operation that means the *Mail* now has the biggest editorial budget of any British newspaper.

David English started out in Fleet Street at 20 on the *Daily*

Mirror in its heyday in the Fifties, and learnt his journalism from Hugh Cudlipp, the legendary *Mirror* editor.

After years of huge financial losses and battles with the *Express*, his *Mail* overtook its greatest rival in the mid-Eighties. Now, with Paul Dacre as editor, but Sir David at the head of the company since 1992, the *Mail* is on the verge of overtaking the mass-market *Daily Mirror*.

The Eighties was Sir David's heyday. He was Baroness Thatcher's favourite editor and

was knighted by her in 1992. Diana, Princess of Wales used him for confidential press advice, and during the 1992 general election John Major called him late at night to ask for help on his sacking campaign.

Simon Kellner, editor of *The Independent*, said last night: "Like countless other newspaper men around the world, I owe David a massive debt of gratitude for his selflessness in passing on the wisdom born of his vast experience. He was truly the journalist's journalist."

Woman cleared of murder withdraws offer of reward

BY KIM SENGUPTA

THE WIDOW of a millionaire businessman, who was cleared of his murder at the Old Bailey last Monday, has withdrawn a £50,000 reward to find the gunman who killed him.

There were bitter recriminations between police and prosecution lawyers when the Crown Prosecution Service dropped charges against Linda Watson, 44, and her daughter, Amanda London-Williams, 23, over the murder of Richard Watson. The

court heard that the officer in charge of the investigation was "appalled" at the decision.

But Detective Inspector Nick Siggs stressed outside the court that a reward of £50,000 could help them track down the gunman who shot dead her husband, 55, in the grounds of his home at East Grinstead, West Sussex.

But within 24 hours of being declared not guilty, which prevents mother and daughter ever being charged with the murder again, Mrs Watson re-

vealed that she intended to withdraw her part of the reward.

Her lawyers are understood to have told the authorities that their client had no confidence in the way Sussex police had conducted the case. Mrs Watson and Ms London-Williams told their story to the *Mirror* newspaper where, in yesterday's issue, they accused the police of smearing them.

The rest of the £50,000 reward - £10,000 from Mr Watson's son Julian, and £10,000 from the Sussex police - remains on offer.

History is made as Indian breaks the Footsie barrier

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

STANDARD CHARTERED, the bank which embodies the British Empire, is to get its first non-Anglo Saxon head. Indian-born Rana Talwar, also becomes the first Asian to lead a company in the FTSE 100 list of the UK's biggest companies.

The 50-year-old career banker, born and brought up in Delhi, has spent most of his life with Citibank, an American international bank. He takes over next February when the cur-

rent chief executive, Malcolm Williamson, retires.

Mr Talwar said that to be the bank's first Asian head was "very pleasing" adding: "It also increases enormously my own sense of responsibility, to succeed in this new job."

Standard Chartered has offices wherever the map was once painted Imperial red, and is particularly strong in the Far East and Africa. As such, it has recently been hit by the Asian financial crisis, but Mr Talwar is determined to con-

tinue the bank's expansion. He is also keen to continue the bank's policy, introduced over the last 10 years, of "decolonialising" its structure by replacing British management with local recruits.

"We are absolutely committed to this programme [of recruiting local people]. Over 60 per cent of our business is outside the US and UK, and more senior and middle management should come from these other areas," Mr Talwar said yesterday.

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There's an awful lot of nuts in Scotland...



Rival fans in McNeill's (above) and at Espaco Zico, in Rio de Janeiro, during last night's opening match. Gerry McCann; João Cerqueiras/AJP

BY PAUL VALLEY
in McNeill's bar in Glasgow

THEY DID not dare to hope as they gathered in McNeill's Bar, south of Glasgow city centre yesterday. They had come armed with the colours of support but were driven by pride rather than any sense of optimism.

McNeill's Bar is owned by Billy McNeill, the former captain of Scotland and of Celtic and the first British player to lead a side who won the European Cup. It is, in the normal course of events, a Celtic pub. "It's not a place to watch Scotland," one of the regulars told me. He was called Pat and wore a plastic bowler hat bearing the flag of St Andrew. He was not a man without irony.

But the bars of the city centre were packed, many with ad-

mission by ticket only. The city had closed early. Rush hour had been at 2pm. By the kick-off the streets were deserted.

In any case Pat's claims of Celtic exclusivity were unjust, as the cheers for Gordon Drurie's sterling performance demonstrated.

"Good on yer, Tonto," the Celtic fans shouted. Tonto, one explained, "as in Lone Ranger". Drurie was the only Rangers player in the team which had three from Celtic.

In the first floor of McNeill's Bar a crowd had gathered to watch the opening match of the World Cup on a giant screen that bleached out the image from Paris with its poor contrast. The faint hope of the onlookers turned to silence as Brazil scored in the opening minutes. "A disastrous goal, that,"

said the TV commentator, before his words were drowned out in a chorus of "shut up" peppered with expletives. The measured words were held in counterpoint from the crowd with Scottish flags stencilled on their cheeks and scarves around their necks.

Later the commentator turned to amplification. "A suggestion of an arm there," said the commentator at one Brazilian foul the ref seemed to overlook. "Too right," shouted the man next to me.

But Scotland fought back and the morale of the crowd lifted. And yet there was a gentleness in it. Early on a Brazilian defender hooked the ball over his head to safety as their goal came under pressure. "What other country in the world could field a defender

who could hook it back like that?" shouted someone.

There was jubilation even when a corner went in Scotland's favour. The room rose to its feet, arms raised, legs apart, whistles blowing and plastic rattles twirling. When the penalty was awarded against Brazil the joy overflowed.

Charlie, who had been drinking since 11am and whose accent was as a result even more impenetrable than that of his colleagues, poured forth a torrent of words in celebration to me.

A man who had had the misfortune to nip into the lavatory moments before Scotland scored emerged blinking in disbelief. Charlie executed a jig to cheers from his comrades.

"If a draw is the final score I'll be on the next plane to France," shouted Leo, who was

keeping quiet about the betting slip in his pocket, which had Brazil winning 3-1.

"They were overawed at the start," said Leo, "they gave the ball away too easily." There was cheering, and drinks all round at half-time.

In the end, of course, the consummate skill of the Brazilians showed. Leo fell to his knees, head to the floor, when Brazil scored for the second time. But when the adrenalin at the final free-kick to Scotland had ceased to pump and the final whistle blew, a more measured judgement fell upon the crowd.

Things looked good for the next round. "To have scored against Brazil is like winning the World Cup," said Leo generously. "That'll dae me."

Scotland's big adventure. Review, page 5

... and an awful lot of absenteeism in Brazil

BY MATTHEW BRACE

Staff at Espaco Zico, one of Rio de Janeiro's most popular sports bars, were leaving nothing to chance yesterday afternoon. There was one television for every ten customers, mounted around the walls to allow clear viewing both for those squeezing to the bar to buy another round of Kaiser beers and the less fortunate who were still fighting to get in the front door.

By kick-off yesterday after-

noon, this corner of Rio known as Terra Encantada or Wonderland, had come to a standstill, as had the rest of this city.

Offices had closed and employees searched desperately for televisions in every available bar and shop window.

By 12.30pm local time the temperature had crept up to a pleasant 27°C with clear, sunny skies, but nobody much cared. All eyes were on a football pitch half-way round the world in Paris.

The bar, on Avenue Ayrton

Senna, is co-owned by the Brazilian footballing hero Zico, who is now the national team's technical director.

The 150 fans crammed inside, almost all wearing the bright yellow colours of their national team, had barely wolfed down their sandwiches before Brazil's Cesar Sampaio struck home the first goal of the 1998 World Cup. The noise was deafening as the crowd held their beers aloft, blew their horns, waved flags and chanted: "We are the champions."

The disinherited who cast a shadow on Paris

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris

THE POSSIBILITY of violence exploding out of the troubled inner-suburbs of French cities seemed one of the least likely threats to the World Cup. The organisers may have to think again.

The sporadic violence in Paris on the opening night - serious enough but hardly the sustained riots suggested by TV pictures - was caused largely by gangs of teenagers of North African origin, from the deprived inner ring of suburbs around the French capital.

Argentinian fans also threw bottles; two Scots were arrested, apparently after returning fire. But World Cup security sources said the deliberate attacks on police, the smashing of car windows and a brief, concerted attempt to break through police lines were the work of youngsters from the so-called *quartiers difficiles* beyond the Boulevard Péripérienne. The great majority of the 25 people arrested were French. Two police officers were seriously injured.

Efforts were being made yesterday to minimise the incidents. Police said the violence was broadly in line with the events they deal with every New Year's Eve and every 14 July (the French national day) when groups of teenagers, from the sink suburbs come into the capital for the festivities. As the main crowd starts to go home, there are generally scuffles between police and youth gangs.

"What happened is regrettable. It's a shame and it has tarnished the image of the celebrations. But it is no big deal with 200,000 people in the streets," said René Querq, the head of World Cup security.

This may be true and Tuesday's violence may be an isolated event. But it is also true to say that the incidents are part of a pattern of increasing violence by suburban



French riot police in action against French rioters

AP PHOTO/Gael Cornier

teenagers, which is partly random or criminal and partly "political" or deliberately provocative. Since this violence tends to go in waves, with one town following another, there is a risk of copy-cat outbreaks in the World Cup host cities such as Marseilles or Lyons.

A youth organiser in the Seine-Saint Denis area, north-west of Paris, where youth unemployment is over 40 per cent, said: "I've no reason to believe that the incidents were planned in any way. But the truth is that there is a great frustration about the World Cup in all the *cités* (estates of tower blocks) that I know. The kids can see the big new stadium at Saint Denis. They see all the fuss on the television, they adore football. But they cannot afford tickets or, even if they could, they don't have the bank account number that you needed to buy a ticket in France. They feel excluded from life and now

they feel excluded from the World Cup."

There is a doughnut of deprivation around most large cities in France - high unemployment, poor schools, gang violence - which the sixty million tourists each year and the vast majority of French people prefer to forget. In Britain and the US, towns tend to rot from the centre. In France, typically, the poor, the unemployed, the second and third generation immigrants, have been swept into the first ring of suburbs.

There was a series of violent outbreaks in a score of French conurbations last winter, from Lille and Roubaix in the north to Lyon and Avignon in the south, starting with the stoning of buses and moving on to the burning of cars. The most recent incidents have involved systematic attacks by youth gangs on the large summer fairgrounds which have been pushed out of city centres to the

border of the sink suburbs themselves.

Youth workers and local councillors point to a pattern in the violence: attacks on symbols of fun (such as fairgrounds) or transport into the city, because they represent a life from which the teenagers feel excluded, economically and racially.

"There is a sense of desperation, of anger, in the *quartiers difficiles*, which is much worse than that eight or ten years ago," said Farid Sellani, 24, a Lille city councillor, who works with suburban youth.

"The kids of Arab origin are not the only ones out of work but it is, truthfully, much worse for them. They know that, even if there were jobs, their chances of getting one are much less than their French schoolmates. They know that, even if they could afford, to go to a night-club in town, they wouldn't be allowed in."

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Think What

Educational standards: Chief Inspector says schools are improving but the gap between the best and worst is widening

Poor schools blamed on headteachers

SECONDARY SCHOOLS are getting better but the gap between the best and worst is widening, says an inspectors' report published today, which was based on more than half a million lessons.

Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, said heads were largely to blame for the differences revealed in the report, which is the most comprehensive review of secondary education ever published.

But headteachers said that his inspectors were at fault for pillorying struggling schools and preventing them from attracting good staff.

The report, from the Office for Standards in Education, covers all 3,600 secondary schools in England and notes that the gap between the GCSE scores of the top 10 per cent of schools and those at the bottom widened between 1992 and 1996. Mr Woodhead said: "Schools that have headteachers focusing on their school's problems and moving them on are making progress. Those which do

BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

not are not. Leadership is good in three out of four schools but some senior managers do not really know what is happening in the classroom."

Some heads, according to the report, are frightened to confront bad teachers. It says that two in five secondary schools are consistently good. But one school in ten is poor. Two out of five pupils lack the basic skills they need, and the proportion leaving without a single qualification is rising - up to one in 14. And the proportion of schools where behaviour is good has fallen.

Standards for schools with similar backgrounds vary widely. Among those with a fifth of pupils on free meals, some are doing more than twice as well as others at GCSE.

Stephen Byers, the school standards minister, welcomed the progress which has been made, but insisted that some schools could do better. Good

education "should be a right not a lottery", he said.

John Sutton, general secretary of the Secondary Heads' Association, said that Government policies, not his members, were to blame for the increasing gap between schools.

"League tables, naming and shaming of schools coupled with enhanced parental choice, have inevitably meant that favoured schools have found it easier to produce improvements. Because it has failed to get the right balance of pressure and support for schools in difficulties, Ofsted is part of the problem rather than the solution."

Roger Coxon, head of Handsworth Wood Boys' School in Birmingham, a failing school which will close this summer, told BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme: "Ofsted is about putting pressure on people to make sure they do it better. That is unrealistic. If someone starts haranguing you, are you going to do it better?"

Urban schools with many



A form lesson at All Saints School in York, mentioned in the Ofsted report for raising the standards of its male pupils

Rui Xavier

All Saints, a place that lives up to its name

BY BEN RUSSELL
Education Correspondent

The signs said "Silence" at All Saints School in York yesterday, as teenagers took the latest of this year's GCSE papers.

Teachers are hoping they will live up to the example of the class of '97, 60 per cent of whom passed five or more subjects with good grades, giving the Roman Catholic comprehensive its best-ever results.

But while the young people celebrate their success later this summer, their teachers' attention will be focused on the gap between boys and girls.

In the past three years, the school has improved boys' results by 10 per cent and narrowed what was a 25 per cent gap between the results of girls and their male counterparts.

Yesterday, Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, praised All Saints for implementing a series of measures now being promoted across Britain to raise standards among boys.

Adrian Elliott, who has been Head Teacher at All Saints' since it opened in 1995, has used sophisticated testing and computer analysis to target underachievement at the school.

His tactics are now at the heart of the drive to raise standards. He opened evening study

clubs, organised staff and student mentors and rigorously checked pupils' progress.

GCSE results pointed to sharp differences between boys and girls. Internal tests for 11- and 14-year-olds confirmed the trend, and that gave teachers information to target those pupils in danger of failing to reach their potential.

Teachers concentrated on areas where the boys were weak: organisation, concentration and motivation. But Mr Elliott and his staff have refused to single out the boys, and have found girls' results rising as the boys' performance was addressed.

Mr Elliott said: "When we worked on lifting the boys' achievement, we also lifted the girls' performance. Last year we still had a gap, but the boys did better than previous groups of boys ever had."

"By and large we found that the majority of the low achievers were boys. We found girls were more concentrated in the main, and they achieved, according to their abilities. We tried to talk about the importance of education in later life and issues like organisation of homework."

The school took simple measures by putting boys and girls next to each other in class, and launching a glossy magazine highlighting achievements.

Staff also tackled behaviour. Mr Elliott suspended lessons after boys were found fighting outside school. He held a meeting for pupils to discuss what had happened.

Eighty children, including the two boys involved, turned up and the incident was not repeated.

Sixth-formers at the school meet GCSE pupils twice a month to talk over work and school problems. In the evening 20 pupils are invited to weekly "achievement clubs." They are encouraged to overcome problems by setting personal targets, and answer to their peers if they fail.

Ben Ambler, a sixth-former who acts as a mentor, said: "Sometimes the girls do take their studies more seriously than the lads, who get distracted. I've never been able to concentrate."

Celia Crumplin, a year head at the school, helped set up the club last year and is now encouraging local business people to help support pupils.

"This is about having someone there who is not judgemental and is just there for you," she said.

"The achievement club was two-thirds boys. They know the girls achieve more than boys, but we have never made a big thing about it. Our phrase is, 'can you fly by yourself?'"

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'I'm gay, and I'm happy for my constituents to know about it'

In the run-up to a Commons debate on lowering the homosexual age of consent, another MP comes out of the closet

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

THE LABOUR MP Gordon Marsden yesterday publicly acknowledged that he was gay, becoming the second politician in a week to confirm his homosexuality.

Mr Marsden, the MP for Blackpool South, used an interview in his local paper to go on the record about his sexuality, and said that it was not a defining influence on his politics. Earlier, David Borrow, the 45-year-old Labour MP for Ribblesdale in Lancashire, also declared his homosexuality.

The men join a growing list of politicians who have come out of the closet. Chris Smith, Stephen Twigg and Ben Bradshaw are all openly gay, and the environment minister Angela Eagle came out last year in an interview with *The Independent*.

But the former Conservative MP and journalist Matthew Parris said yesterday that coming out was so routine it had ceased to be interesting. "Labour MPs seem to be coming out all over the place," he said. "Some of them are people we have never even heard of before but we are in a new climate of sexual liberation and it could well be a bid for some personal publicity."

Angela Mason, the director of Stonewall, said that homosexuality was becoming more accepted in all walks of life and that had filtered back to Parliament.

"People are just refusing to live their lives in the closet any more, and thousands are coming out in all areas and claiming equality," she said. "Parliament is simply reflecting those changes."

She suggested that a forthcoming vote on lowering the age of homosexual consent from 18 to 16 had precipitated Mr Marsden's and Mr Borrow's decisions.

"They both wanted to be able to speak in the debate and discuss the issue openly," she said.

Mr Marsden, a former historian and lecturer who won an 11,616 majority at the last election, said there was no reason why his constituents should not know of his sexuality.

"Many people in Blackpool already know - I believe my constituents have the right too. I have made no attempt to hide it or mislead people," he said. "This is merely the first time I have gone on record and spoken publicly about it."

He said he shared a home with his long-term partner, named only as Richard, in Brighton. They met 12 years ago in London.

"I'm a politician first and a gay man second. I am not a single-issue MP. Being gay is part and parcel of what I am, who I am."

His declaration would come as no surprise to those who knew him best, he added. "I don't lead a double life. Most of them know. Some have met my partner. But a politician stands for election, not their partners, or their parents. They have a right to lives of their own."

Even the Conservative party seems to be relaxing its stance on the issue of homosexuality, although no Tories in the current House have admitted to being gay. In the last parliament, one Tory MP, Michael Brown, admitted to being gay. He is currently writing parliamentary sketches for *The Independent*.



Gordon Marsden: 'I have made no attempt to hide it or mislead people. This is merely the first time I have gone on record about it'

Famous five



Environment minister Angela Eagle, 37, (Wallasey): "I'm in a long-term and happy relationship. I happen to be with a woman."



Ben Bradshaw, 36, (Exeter): "Gayness is now mainstream: why behave as though we're still in the ghetto?"



Stephen Twigg, 30, (Enfield Southgate): "I think it is positive if public figures can say they are lesbian or gay."



Culture minister Chris Smith, 46, (Islington South): "Gay men are different - that doesn't mean we are not as valid as any other citizen."



David Borrow, 45, (South Ribblesdale): "I think it is appropriate at this point to be honest with the people of South Ribblesdale."

Synod puts drugs on church agenda

FOR THE first time in the General Synod's 27-year history, drugs are on the agenda. Next month members of the Church of England are to debate drugs policy, including the decriminalisation of cannabis and the prescription of heroin.

The Rev Kenneth Leech, a community theologian at St Botolph's, Aldgate, who has worked in the drugs field for the past 35 years and who is in favour of the decriminalisation of cannabis, has written a background report for the Synod debate.

In his paper, entitled *Drugs and the Church*, he criticises the Government's "failure to see how drugs policy has itself helped to produce the present appalling situation."

Of the Government's White Paper, *Tackling Drugs to Build a Better Britain*, published in April, Mr Leech writes: "The most positive aspect of the document is the recognition that treatment costs less, and works better, than prohibition."

However, the long-term policy implications of this recognition need to be taken more

BY CLARE GARNER

seriously than any government has so far done."

Apart from an information pack produced by the Board for Social Responsibility in 1986, the last publication on drugs from an official Church of England source was a booklet, also by Mr Leech, entitled *The Drug Subculture: a Christian Analysis*. His previous booklet was published in 1969 and warned of the dangers of abandoning the prescription of heroin.

Mr Leech was asked by the Church's Board for Social Responsibility to write a report for July's General Synod in York on account of his broad experience of the drug scene.

He founded the Soho Drugs Group in 1967, was a founder member of the Institute for the Study of Drug Dependence and has written extensively on the subject.

In his latest report Mr Leech goes on to urge churches to fill the spiritual vacuum in young people which is presently being filled by drugs. "The association between drugs and spirituality

still seems almost indecent to many people, yet the evidence that this is so is considerable," he writes.

"We need to recognise that many young people have, after taking psychedelic drugs, moved beyond reliance on the drug-induced experience. They have made what Allan Y Cohen once termed the 'journey beyond trips', and this quest has been going on now for over 30 years. It is evident in many of the 'new spiritual movements'."

"It is widely recognised both inside and outside the Church that there is a profound spiritual emptiness at the heart of our society and a quest for a richer 'inner life', he said, adding that "drugs are closely related to this emptiness and this quest. The role of priests and pastors, as well as Christians, in helping this quest along, is very important."

Yesterday he said: "The search for something beyond the humdrum of everyday life is being satisfied by drugs in a way that religion used to. Quite often the Church just offers another version of the humdrum."

IN BRIEF

Doctor and nurses charged

A DOCTOR and three nurses have been charged with the manslaughter of a pensioner who died last year after falling into a coma at a nursing home. Retired miner Billy Bretwood, 77, a resident at Seaton View nursing home in Seaham, County Durham, became ill and lapsed into a coma on 16 April last year. He was admitted to Sunderland General Hospital, where he died two days later.

An initial post-mortem examination was inconclusive. Police launched an investigation into the circumstances surrounding Mr Bretwood's death. A file was sent to the Crown Prosecution Service and four people were charged with manslaughter yesterday. They are due to appear before Peterlee magistrates on 13 July.

Schools' chief backs higher pay

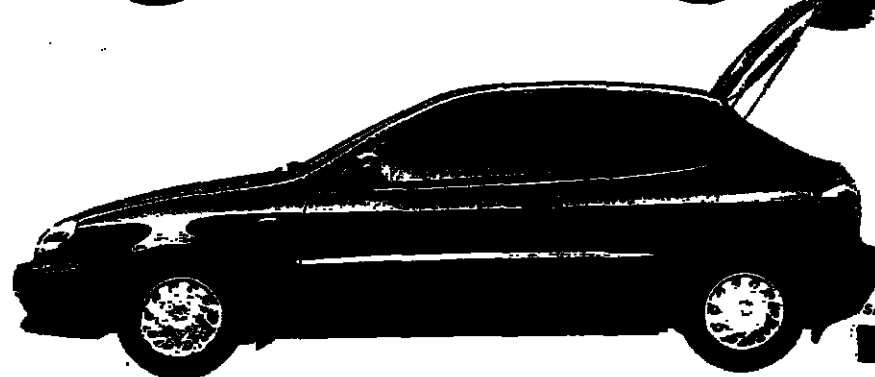
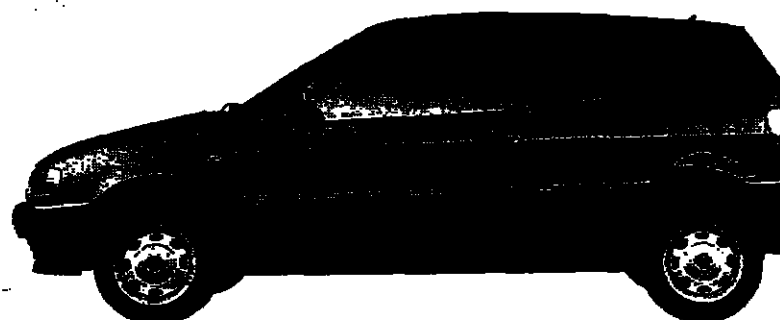
MINISTERS SHOULD make higher salaries for teachers a priority when they allocate extra funds for education, Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools said yesterday. His comments came as local authority employers called for a five-week cut in teachers' annual holiday in return for a 26bn increase in education spending including a big pay rise for teachers.

JUDITH JUDD

Firm fined over dirty water

WELSH WATER was yesterday ordered to pay £22,000 in fines and costs after supplying dirty water to 4,600 consumers. Aberystwyth magistrates heard that more than 600 people complained after the incident in June last year which followed work by contractors during installation of a main pipeline at Tregaron, Ceredigion.

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Race hate witnesses praised

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

COUNCIL TENANTS who were terrorised for two years by a gang of young thugs were praised yesterday by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, as an example of how communities can fight back against intimidation and violence.

Mr Straw visited the Limehouse Fields estate in east London as he unveiled a shake-up in the way the police and courts deal with intimidated and vulnerable witnesses.

Half the 1,000 tenants are of Bengali extraction. For years they suffered racist harassment. In response Tower Hamlets council went to court to have the ringleaders thrown out, helped by 15 witnesses.

Mr Straw said: "Modern technology can now help to provide us with solutions. But witnesses play the central role in bringing criminals to justice."

Leading article, Review page 3



Elderflower pickers carry home their early morning crop, near Nailsworth, Gloucestershire John Lawrence

Condon links drink to rise in violence

BRITAIN'S SENIOR police chief yesterday blamed excessive drinking among the young for the rise in violent crime.

Sir Paul Condon, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, in an interview with *The Independent*, said the nationwide problem of rising violence was linked to young people having more money for alcohol and a greater choice of places to drink. He also blamed the drug and rave culture.

There is growing concern over casual and unprovoked assaults. The number of violent crimes recorded by the police have increased every year for the past decade. Violent offences in Greater Manchester rose by 50 per cent in the past year, according to figures released last week.

Sir Paul said: "Where I think there has been a real increase is violence between young people linked to drink. That's where the growth is. It is about afflu-

ence, relative affluence of young people, their ability to drink and club. There are influences from the drugs and rave culture. "Lifestyle changes have encouraged violence in those sort of circumstances. It's about choice. There are more venues to go to."

The Home Office's chief criminologist has also expressed his fears about violent crime that is linked to alcohol, which rose to 350,700 offences in England and Wales in 1997 - it makes up eight per cent of all crime. The marketing of extra strong alcoholic drinks aimed at the young has also been identified as an influence.

The Home Office is at present reviewing the licensing laws and a coalition group of police, magistrates, brewers and local authorities yesterday claimed to be gaining support

for new legislation to allow all-night drinking by the year 2000.

In London, while overall crime has declined in the past year, violent offences rose by six per cent. Sir Paul said it was often hard to tackle violent offences because they usually take place behind closed doors.

Among the techniques being considered by Scotland Yard are "naming and shaming" pubs and clubs in the media and installing surveillance cameras at trouble spots.

He revealed that Scotland Yard has drawn up extensive plans to deal with any violence or mass disturbances at the thousands of pubs and clubs in London planning to screen World Cup football.

Another reason for the rise in recorded violent offences is, Sir Paul believes, improved reporting and more sympathetic treatment of victims, particularly those of domestic violence and child abuse. Sir

Paul also disclosed that the Metropolitan Police had set up an inquiry into why black people are far more likely than whites to be stopped and searched in the capital.

The commissioner defended the use of his force's stop-and-search practices, arguing that when the police tactic was reduced by half in a racially sensitive area of north London, the number of reported crime increased by one-third.

The comments follow an unpublished report, revealed in *The Independent*, which showed police in London stopped and searched 45 black people and 13 Asians for every white person, proportionate to population.

Research into the use of stop-and-search is at present being carried out at five pilot areas, including Tottenham in north London. Sir Paul explained: "We need to understand why young black men are disproportionately stopped."

Britain, a nation fond of a tippie too many

BRITONS ARE not the biggest drinkers - that distinction is held by the citizens of Luxembourg - but they are among the biggest binge-drinkers and it is drinking to get drunk that causes the greatest harm.

A glass or two of beer, or wine taken each evening will, for most people, improve their mood, enhance a meal and benefit the heart. Moderate drinking on this scale reduces the risk of a heart attack by more than 30 per cent in men over 45 and increases longevity compared with drinking no alcohol at all.

The problems arise when the daily allowance is taken in one or two sessions at the weekend. For young people in particular, drunkenness is more dangerous than drink. Drunkenness increases the risk of accidents and violence, the main causes of death in young men, and young adults are the heaviest drinkers.

The age at which young people start to drink unsupervised is more important than the age at which they first try alcohol. At 12 to 13 they are using alcohol to experience the adult world and to satisfy their curiosity. By the age of 14 and 15 they are testing their limits, experimenting with losing control and having fun. At 16 and 17 they are anxious to be seen to drink more like adults and want to appear sophisticated.

Drunkenness offences peak at the age of 19 and at every age are higher in men than in women. Much advertising is aimed at young people and "happy hours" and promotions are geared to making them drink more. The Royal College of Physicians noted in its 1995 report, *Alcohol and the Young*, that drink caused 10 times as much damage as drugs.

By JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

A survey by the Health Education Authority last year found that a million men and 190,000 women said they got drunk at least once a week - and those were the ones who admitted it. Among 16- to 24-year-olds, four out of ten young men said they downed the equivalent of four or more pints at least once a week - enough to put the average man's blood alcohol level at least 50 per cent over the drink-driving limit.

More than one-quarter of young women said they downed three pints or their equivalent at least once a week. As the HEA noted, binge-drinking causes accidents, injuries, blackouts, memory loss, alcohol poisoning, violence, crime, sickness, hangovers and behaviour that gives cause for regret. Drink is a factor in one in four hospital admissions for men, a quarter of accidents at work and one in six accidents on the road.

Drinking above the recommended limits - four units (half a pint of beer or equivalent) a day for men, three for women - is the commonest cause of high blood pressure, increases the risk of stroke and heart disease and is linked with two out of three suicides. There are 33,000 deaths each year linked to alcohol.

There is one ray of light among these gloomy statistics. For most people, both men and women, the heavy drinking associated with the teenage years does not persist into adulthood. With the demands of jobs, partners, children and the rent or mortgage, people tend to moderate their drinking. They learn to drink for enjoyment, not oblivion.

Alcohol: the hard facts

■ 14 million men and 500,000 women are drinking at very risky levels - more than 50 units (each unit being half a pint of beer or equivalent) a week for men and 35 units for women.

■ One in 25 people in Britain is dependent on alcohol.

■ Among 11- to 15-year-olds the proportion who drink more than once a week has risen from 13 per cent in 1988 to 20 per cent in 1996.

■ Two-thirds of murders involve either a victim or an assailant who has been drinking.

■ Alcohol is a factor in four out of ten incidents of domestic violence and one-third of child abuse cases.

■ Drinking causes 3 per cent of all cancers - mainly of the mouth and gut.

■ Death from liver disease is 10 times more common in heavy drinkers than in non-drinkers.

■ Alcohol problems cost the NHS an estimated £150m a year.

■ Drinking is responsible for the loss of 14 million working days a year.



■ But the situation is worse across the Channel. Europe's heaviest drinkers are the people of Luxembourg, who consume 12.6 litres of pure alcohol per head per year. They are followed by the Germans at 12.1 litres and the French at 11.5. Britain comes way down the table at 7.2 litres.

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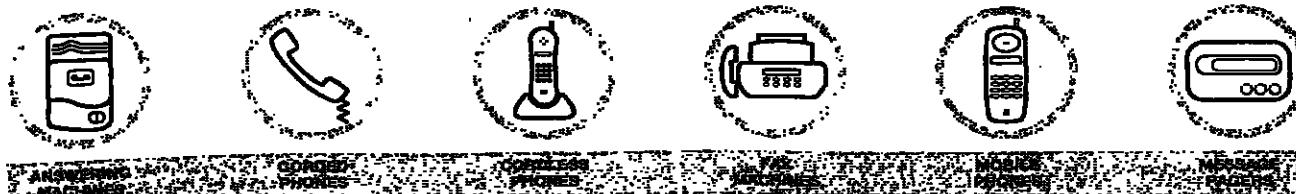
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Northern Ireland: the old hatreds may never die, but an icon of republican violence is out on the election trail

Gunman, IRA boss - and the new face of Ulster?

By DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland Correspondent

IF YOU met old Joe, genial, twinkling old Joe in a pub, you might think he was making it all up to get you to buy him a pint. He talks quietly about how they sentenced him to death for killing a policeman, and about the month he spent awaiting execution.

He tells you how in the end they reprieved him but hanged his friend, Tom Williams; and how he's still trying to get his friend's bones out of the jail where they buried him.

Yes, he says, he was later arrested on the high seas on a boat with a cargo of guns destined for the IRA. And yes, here he is standing as a candidate in the election designed to re-shape Northern Ireland's future and give it a brand new start.

This is not a local character spinning a yarn; it is Joe Cahill, legendary IRA gunman, still an important figure in Sinn Féin, standing for his first-ever election at the age of 78. And the key question is how this survivor of the age of the Thompson gun feels about Sinn Féin going into an assembly where it will help govern Northern Ireland.

It was in 1942 that he was one of six IRA men sentenced to death. Half a century later he says: "If Tom Williams were alive today he would be very much in favour of the course we're taking now. I have no doubts that anybody I know who has made the supreme sacrifice would have the same thinking."

"I was four and a half weeks in the condemned cell with Tom. I ex-



Joe Cahill (second right, main picture) was sentenced to death in 1942 for the murder of an RUC man. Now, like Patricia Campbell, left, a Unionist, he places his faith in the ballot box David Rose



pected to be hanged then, you know, and we talked about life after our death, what we would like to see for the future. To me it's like yesterday we were in the condemned cell, and I can vividly remember the conversations we had.

"We didn't think we were going to drive the British into the sea, we didn't see that happening. We knew that at some time along the road there would have to be negotiations, that we would have to sit down and talk to the Brits about getting out of the country and all that sort of thing."

He is canvassing Dunloy, a little nationalist village in the Rev Ian Paisley's political heartland. The scene of recurring loyalist marching

confrontations it is, in between the fights, as relaxed as can be: many residents leave their front-door keys in the lock. "There's no crime rate as such," a Sinn Féin councillor remarks.

As an IRA icon, Joe Cahill has given the approval of the old brigade for Sinn Féin's move into politics. He stresses continuity: "This is another phase of the struggle. I believe in a united Ireland. I personally think this is the best opportunity we've had for a long, long time, and I believe in this new phase of struggle we can succeed this time."

Half an hour later and 10 miles away in Protestant Ballymena, being drenched by the same rain, Patricia Campbell outlines a totally dif-

ferent vision. "Unionism can be a fully inclusive movement," she argues with some passion. "We have to go forward, build on our diversity, respect all our differences and learn from them. It's about building a pluralist future where our diversity can flourish."

As any student of Northern Ireland politics can attest, this sounds much closer to Hume-speak than Trimble-speak. Ms Campbell has a mission: a Catholic, she argues intensely that Unionism is changing and should no longer be seen as an Orange institution. "Democracy, tolerance, pluralism," she says. "To me that's what Unionism is all about."

Joe Cahill killed an RUC man; Pa-

tricia Campbell comes from an RUC family. She says: "Joe Cahill is entitled to his aspiration but the Good Friday agreement proves that there isn't going to be a united Ireland in Joe Cahill's lifetime or my lifetime."

"By coming into the assembly Sinn Féin have actually bought into this, into the legitimisation of the state of Northern Ireland. And the onus is on them, if they're going to come into the assembly, to make it work - declare the war is over and come in and sit down and make this place work."

These two people come from different worlds, with different life experiences and very different visions of the future. Between them there is absolutely no sense of

shared purpose or fellow-feeling, yet they do have something in common. Both in their different ways are talking of change and modernisation.

As a republican ancient, Joe Cahill is giving the blessing of generations of IRA tradition to the radical new departures mapped out by Gerry Adams. As a Catholic Unionist, Patricia Campbell is saying that Unionism can be more than just Orangeism. The two are standing for election in the territory of Ian Paisley, the great symbol of opposition to modernity.

Most Unionists have deep doubts about Sinn Féin's commitment to exclusively peaceful means and have yet to accept that the republicans have truly bidden a farewell to

arms. Most nationalists in turn doubt Unionism's democratic credentials, accusing it of ingrained sectarianism and discrimination.

The two candidates clearly differ profoundly on the ultimate destination of the peace process. They can't both be right: the assembly can't in logic both advance the cause of Irish unity and cement the union.

Yet in a deeper sense both have agreed to engage in their political contests within the terms of the Good Friday accord, and both say they want to make it work. If a new start is successfully made then hopefully no more policemen will be killed, and no more republicans will languish in jail.

MICHELLE PFEIFFER
A
JESSICA LANGE

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Languishing on Death Row, a minister surrounded by robots

POOR David Clark, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, does not look happy as he languishes in a dingy corner of the Cabinet Office on Death Row awaiting probable execution in the forthcoming summer reshuffle. He was let out yesterday by his warder, Peter Mandelson (technically his deputy) for a walk round the exercise yard, otherwise known as the Chamber of the House of Commons, to answer a few questions before Executioner Blair came on subsequently for Prime Minister's questions.

Prime Ministers can do what they like with the office of Chancellor of the Duchy. Thatcher and Major used it as an entrance ticket

to get the Chairman of the Conservative Party in through the cabinet door to sit with the rest of his mates.

Mr Blair, lumbered with the Labour Party requirement to form his first cabinet from those elected by backbench MPs when in opposition, has used it as a means of finding Dr Clark something to do without getting in the way of the big boys.

They've made him paperclips and ink monitor, well, computers actually. He is in charge of stopping us going back to the 19th century on Millennium day when apparently some bug in all our computers is going to turn them into quill pens.

With the Government becoming even more robotic, we had Neil Gerrard (Lab, Walthamstow) asking Dr Clark about "electronic government". Dale Campbell Saviours (Lab, Workington) wanted to know if there was any news on Genesis? which is apparently something to do with information technology in Cumbria. (I suspect Dr Clark is more worried about the end rather than the beginning.)

Sir George Young, the new shadow, wanted to know how many ministers were using electronic red boxes (none) but Dr Clark said that we should watch this space and he would "share their secrets with the world". After the Sandline

THE SKETCH



MICHAEL BROWN

affair, somehow I rather doubt this. Apparently ministers are now communicating with each other

electronically. Sir Peter Tapsell, (Con, Horncastle) suggested that if more ministers "were on speaking terms they would not need to use computers".

The Prime Minister interrupted his busy week running Europe, telling Chirac and Kohl what to do, and dropped by for 30 minutes to answer his questions. A fly on the Downing Street wall has probably heard Mr Blair saying to Alastair Campbell something to the following effect: "Look, Alastair, I told you to abolish this question-time business altogether—not just reduce it to once a week. Anyway, if anyone wants to ask me a question, we can get it done on that Des O'Connor

show I went on the other days. (By the way, Alastair, I'm not sure that this glottal stopping business really worked.)"

William Hague pressed Mr Blair on Sandline, asking if he would sack Lady Symons, the junior Foreign Office Lord's Minister. Mr Blair replied that there was no evidence that she had "deliberately" misled Parliament.

The robotic nature of question-time continues apace. After last week's outbreak of independence from Andrew Mackinlay, Labour's Backbench Daleks were out in full force but some of them had a wiring problem.

Lawrie Quinn (Lab, Scarborough)

ough and Whitby) Suffed his line asking a patsy question wanting Mr Blair to congratulate Jack Cunningham, the agriculture minister, on the easing of the beef ban. The Prime Minister pointedly paid no tribute to Cunningham, urging caution and saying that there was "a long way to go".

Roger Casale (Lab, Wimbledon) told us that at one school in his constituency, thanks to the Government's new deal for schools, "all the children are already wired up to computers".

Are there no lengths to which Labour will not go to turn the whole population, as well as their MPs, into robots?

Smith is attacked for focus on trivia

CHRIS SMITH, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, has been savaged by a House of Commons select committee chaired by senior Labour backbencher Gerald Kaufman.

The deeply damaging report issued by the committee yesterday accuses Mr Smith of spending too much time on "glamorous and trivial matters", such as Britpop, and not enough generating income from tourism.

The report by the cross-party committee of MPs added that he was not tough enough in negotiations with the Treasury and his department had still not "boxed its weight" in Whitehall.

The culture, media and sport committee derided the department's "Beefeaters to Britpop" image and said Mr Smith must make it his "highest priority" to start advancing its interests in the Cabinet.

The report will be intensely embarrassing for Mr Smith, who has just written a rather self-congratulatory book about his portfolio, called *Creative Britain*. He has already faced criticism from senior arts fig-

CULTURE
BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

ures, including the theatre director Sir Peter Hall, over cash cuts.

Yesterday, the committee's criticisms were being taken seriously enough for the Prime Minister's office to issue a statement supporting the minister. A spokesman for Tony Blair said: "The Prime Minister has complete confidence in the Secretary of State. He is an excellent Secretary of State doing a fine job."

But a senior Conservative member of the committee, Michael Fabricant, said Mr Smith should resign immediately. "I have never seen such a damning report before. If Chris Smith has any dignity at all, he will go before he is pushed," he said.

In its report, the committee accepted that the department was committed to enhancing its influence in Whitehall and highlighting the achievements of the areas it sponsors. "However, a commitment is not an achievement and unfortu-



Chris Smith, right, in the company of Sir George Martin, The Beatles' record producer

nately the department has not enhanced its influence in the way it says it would like to do," it said.

"The Secretary of State should now make it his highest priority to advance the department both within cabinet and by taking a much tougher attitude in his negotiations with the Treasury, which has certainly not been achieved and may not even have been attempted."

The committee's main concern was that tourism was being ignored at the expense of more high-profile aspects of the department's work, even though it was Britain's third largest industry, worth £40bn a year.

"We are, therefore, deeply concerned that, in policy state-

ments by the department and in public statements by ministers, tourism is subordinated in favour of more glamorous and trivial matters," the report said.

"We further recommend that tourism should be the lead responsibility of a minister in the department and that the Secretary of State should concern himself with it far more, in actions, in policy and in public statements."

Although tourism accounted for more jobs than agriculture, coal mining, steel making, car manufacturing, aircraft building, food production and the textile industry combined, it was not even mentioned in the department's name. The MPs urged ministers to consider renaming in order to reflect the central importance of tourism

in its activities—even though it is barely a year since its name was changed by the Government from the Department of National Heritage.

The report also urged more contacts with the Department of Education and Employment over sporting matters, and criticised Mr Smith for not making sure the Arts Council and English Heritage were cost effective.

Mr Smith's own department attempted to accuse the committee of inaccuracies, but without naming any. A spokesman at the department said: "At first sight, the report contains a number of useful suggestions and a number of inaccuracies. We note that the views of a number of senior figures from the tourism world, especially in the outside industry, do not appear to coin-

cide with the analysis deployed by the committee."

And Mr Smith's parliamentary private secretary Fiona Macgarratt, said the report "in key respects, is superficial and fails to provide evidence that substantiates its conclusions. It recycles criticism made by its predecessor committee of the last government."

In response to Mr Fabricant's call for the Secretary of State to resign, she accused him of disclosing the contents of the report in advance.

The Conservative culture spokesman, Peter Ainsworth, said: "I do not think we are in resignation territory yet". But he added that he "would not be at all surprised if he (Mr Smith) got the chop" in the impending Cabinet reshuffle.

Blair on defensive over arms accusation

TONY BLAIR was forced to defend the Foreign Office minister Baroness Symons yesterday amid allegations that she misled the House of Lords over Sierra Leone.

Some members of a House of Commons committee have demanded that she should appear before it to explain when she knew of allegations about the breach of an arms embargo by the British firm Sandline International.

In response to a question from the Conservative leader, William Hague, the Prime Minister said there was "not a shred of evidence" that she or any other minister had misled Parliament over the affair.

There has been continuing controversy over when ministers knew Customs and Excise was investigating a breach of the embargo on Sierra Leone by Sandline International. Baroness Symons told the House of Lords on 11 March that she knew only what she had read in the newspapers, but the Foreign Office permanent secretary told the Foreign Affairs Committee that she had been briefed by officials before she spoke.

At Prime Minister's Questions, Mr Hague said the minister should resign. The Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, had repeatedly told MPs that no minister knew about the investigation before mid-April, he said.

"Isn't it absolutely clear from the committee yesterday that at least one minister was informed in early March. So did the foreign minister fail to tell the Foreign Secretary, or did the Foreign Secretary fail to tell this House?" he asked.

Mr Blair said he had not asked Lady Symons to resign.

"There is no evidence whatever that she deliberately misled either the House of Lords or indeed anybody else," he said.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS
BY FRANK ABRAMS
Political Correspondent

"From what I've seen there is no evidence—indeed there is not a shred of evidence—that any ministers have deliberately misled anybody; or that the original allegation, which is that they conspired in some great conspiracy to give arms in breach of a UN arms embargo, there is not a shred of evidence to support that. There never has been."

Today, the committee will meet to discuss outstanding business, but some of its members say they will ask for Baroness Symons to be called.

Its chairman, Donald Anderson, said yesterday in a radio interview that it was likely the baroness would be called. But later in the day he said he believed that she might resolve the issue herself when she returned from a trip to Canada.

"Somebody has got it wrong, there is a conflict which is capable of resolution and if politicians or even senior civil servants say they have got it wrong, people tend to be forgiving," he said.

"If I were her private office I would advise her to clear it up, and swiftly."

David Wilshire, a committee member and Conservative MP for Spelthorne, said he was tabling a new series of parliamentary questions on the affair.

David Heath, the Liberal Democrat member of the committee and MP for Somerton and Frome, said it would continue to demand the facts of the case.

The Foreign Office has recently refused to give information on the grounds that Sir Thomas Legg is conducting a separate inquiry.

"I am at a loss to understand the tactics of the Foreign Office at the moment," he said.

Robinson delays inquiry into his businesses

AN INQUIRY by Sir Gordon Downey into Geoffrey Robinson's business affairs has been delayed because the Paymaster General has failed to properly answer questions, it emerged last night.

The news follows yesterday's revelations, reported in *The Independent*, that Mr

MEMBERS' INTERESTS
BY FRANK ABRAMS
Political Correspondent

Robinson broke Commons rules by not mentioning his Italian estate on the Register of Members' Interests.

The estate, a villa, small

hamlet and some farmland, is run by two businesses owned by Mr Robinson and is believed to be worth around £1.5m.

The shadow Chancellor, Francis Maude, has asked Sir Gordon to open a new investigation into these interests. Sir Gordon, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, is

looking into Mr Robinson's involvement with an offshore trust and into dealings in Coventry City Football Club shares. He is also investigating claims that the Paymaster General did not declare the directorships of several companies, some of which were connected with Robert Maxwell.

It is understood that Mr Robinson has not provided the information Sir Gordon needs to complete his inquiries.

Yesterday Mr Maude called for the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards to be given extra resources.

He told the House of Commons Speaker Betty Boothroyd

that the earlier inquiries had already been going on for more than three months.

"This level of activity was not envisaged when Sir Gordon's office was set up. My point is to ensure that sufficient resources are available to the commissioner to carry out his investigations," he said.

THE HOUSE



New powers granted to police

THE POLICE have been given new powers to unmask suspected troublemakers wearing balaclavas. They will be able to insist on the removal of headgear that hides a person's identity if they are thought to be armed or potentially violent.

Review of policy on carers

THE PRIME Minister ordered a review of existing measures to help Britain's six million carers. The findings of the review will be used to develop a single national programme for carers and "ensure their needs are reflected in Government policy". Mr Blair announced the new national strategy at question time.

Mystery of the crossed-out motto

TORY PEERS protested that the Department of Health's slogan, "Improving the Health of the Nation", is being crossed out on its stationery. Lord McColl of Dulwich said an official had told him it was "no longer Government policy". The health minister Baroness Jay of Paddington said the Government was committed to improving the nation's health, but the old stationery was being "phased out" and the new motto would be "Our Healthier Nation".

Today in Parliament

- Questions to David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment
- Debate on next week's European Summit in Cardiff
- Debate on the imprisonment of Professor David Lowery in Portugal

Mowlam under attack over early prisoner release policy

MO MOWLAM, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, faced sniping from all sides over the failure to link early prisoner release with the decommissioning of arms, in the Second Reading debate on the Northern Ireland (Sentences) Bill last night.

Opposition MPs challenged the legislation based on the Good Friday agreement, claiming that without the handing-over of weapons it was impossible to be sure organisations like the IRA was committed to peace. However, Dr Mowlam stood firm, saying the legislation was not to be "cherry-picked by any party".

Under the Good Friday agreement, only organisations committed to democracy which are fully co-operating with the decommissioning body will benefit from early prisoner release. Dr Mowlam insisted that the safeguards to ensure that freed terrorists had renounced violence were rigorous. Under the legislation:

- Prisoners will not be released if they support groups which are not committed to complete ceasefires.
- Each case will be considered individually by independent commissioners.

NORTHERN IRELAND
BY OLIVER CAVE

Once out of jail, prisoners will be placed under licence for the rest of their sentence. If they return to violence, the licence will then be revoked and they would return to prison.

Dr Mowlam said: "The Bill is the first stage in implementing the agreement that makes possible a new future for Northern Ireland based on fairness, consent, peace and reconciliation. We have a duty to the people of Northern Ireland to implement their wishes."

She denied she was preparing to make the IRA a legal outfit. Membership of such organisations would continue to be a criminal offence.

Andrew MacKay, the Shadow spokesman on Northern Ireland, warned that the Bill should not be rushed through Parliament, and pledged to table a number of amendments to enforce the link between decommissioning and prisoner release when the Bill reaches committee stage. "We can't simply, for the sake of speedy passage through this House, afford to get it wrong. There can

be no half way house or fudge between democracy and terrorism," he said. "Nor can we tolerate a situation whereby republicans or loyalists wield executive power in one hand and an Armalite in the other."

Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble claimed the substance had been watered down in the proposed legislation. He said the Government must stick very closely to the conditions for early prisoner release. "We will focus on those tests which have been put into legislation. We need to have some confidence that the Government does not have difficulty in sticking to those principles. It is not clear that terrorism has ended or been defeated." UK Unionist MP Robert McCartney said that "without decommissioning it would be a travesty of all principles of democracy".

Phil Willis, the Liberal Democrat Northern Ireland spokesman, called for more help for the victims of the Troubles. "The prisoner release legislation flows out of the agreement. But victims and their families deserve recognition and respect. Unlike prisoners, victims have not had a political wing," he said.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Nuclear power stations

THERE are no plans make information about the health risks of nuclear power stations more accessible, John Battle, Trade and Industry Minister, told Paul Flynn (Lab, Newport West). Existing arrangements already provided for a high degree of public openness, he said.

Captain Euro

HELEN Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, told Austin Mitchell (Lab, Great Grimsby) that the Government had no plans at the moment to adopt the European Parliament's Captain Euro publicity campaign in the run-up to the creation of the euro.

Nuclear war

THE Ministry of Defence sees no immediate nuclear threats to the United Kingdom, though it could not be certain that the situation would not change, George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence, told Alasdair Morgan (SNP, Galloway and Upper Nithsdale).

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The Indian who broke the Footsie barrier



Rana Talwar, of Standard Chartered Bank, will become the first Asian to head a FTSE 100 company

Andrew Burnman

RANA TALWAR is keenly aware of his status as the first Asian to head a major Western bank following his appointment as chief executive designate to Standard Chartered Bank yesterday.

But the fact that he will be the first Asian to head up a company in the FTSE 100, the top 100 companies on the British stock market, merely redoubles his determination to succeed in his new job.

He also acknowledges the irony that an Indian, born and raised in Delhi, will now be head of the international bank which once followed the flag wherever the map was painted Imperial red.

"I think it is a very pleasant thing," he says. "Standard Chartered is a 150-year-old, respected institution. To be the first Indian, the first Asian to be put at the head of an international bank like this is very pleasing," he says.

"It also increases my own sense of responsibility (to succeed in the job)," he adds.

The 50-year-old economics graduate from St Stephen's College in Delhi, who is about to take over as chief executive of Standard Chartered Bank, insists he wasn't promised the job when he joined 14 months ago.

Mr Talwar admitted yesterday that he had been talking to London-based Standard Chartered "for years". He had spent the previous 18 years with Citicorp, an American rival, which he originally joined in his native India.

The switch to Standard involved moving his family, including one son

and two daughters, from Chicago to London.

Mr Talwar says: "I and my family love London. It's undoubtedly the best place to live in the world, and I intend to live here for the next 10 years. It was a major factor why I decided to take the job. You can do anything, the language, the pubs, the sport - it's great."

He will join a number of other Asians on Standard Chartered's board of directors. These include Ho Kwong Ping, the Singapore-based president of Wah Chang Group and chairman of Singapore Power, and Ronnie Chan, a property developer based in Hong Kong.

He originally joined Citicorp in his home city of Delhi in 1969, and spent the following 18 years helping to manage its global network.

"I started off in corporate banking in India, and then in 1978 I moved to Saudi Arabia, where I spent three years running the bank's treasury operations. Then I moved to Hong Kong and became the regional treasurer for Asia," says Mr Talwar. "I moved to Singapore in 1981, where I helped build a commercial banking business for Citibank in Asia from scratch. That business now makes profits of over \$500m a year," he says proudly.

For the 18 months before joining Standard Chartered, Mr Talwar was based in Chicago, and in charge of all Citibank's banking operations in Europe and the US. His recruitment is seen as quite a coup in the City.

"There was no contract that I would get the top job at Standard Chartered, but I was told I would definitely be in the running," says Mr Talwar.

He will succeed Malcolm Williamson as chief executive in October. He had to beat off tough competition from Philippe Pallart, executive director for consumer banking, who was the City's favourite to succeed Mr Williamson.

The bank announced yesterday that French-born Mr Pallart is to resign from the board on 30 June "to pursue other interests", after eight years with the bank.

None of which fazes Mr Talwar. Mr Williamson's reign saw Standard Chartered recovering from a rocky period of bad loans and international scandals. The former Barclays man also pressed ahead with the sale of the bank's palatial Colonial residences in the centre of Hong Kong, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur.

Mr Talwar now wants the bank to start expanding again. "I believe the market, and sometimes our own people, undervalue our franchise in Africa, for instance. Asia is core to our existence but we do have other opportunities. We need to invest more," he says.

While Asia will remain the bank's main market - it's one of the biggest "high street" banks in Hong Kong, for instance - the new man also wants to expand into relatively untrodden areas, such as eastern Europe and central Asia, areas where the bank has no presence so far.

Scientists identify cause of cot death

SCIENTISTS BELIEVE they may have discovered a cause of cot deaths which claim more than 500 lives a year in Britain.

Researchers who studied 34,000 babies born in a 20-year period found that those with a rare disorder of the heart rhythm had a sharply increased risk of sudden death before their first birthday. The finding could lead to a screening test for high-risk children and reduce the toll of unexpected and unexplained deaths.

Doctors in Italy took electrocardiograms - measures of heart rhythm - on the third or fourth day of life in all babies born in nine maternity hospitals between 1976 and 1994. In the year after their birth, 34 of the babies died, 24 from sudden infant death syndrome.

The researchers found that babies who died of cot death had longer QT intervals - a measure of the heart's pumping action - than those who died of other causes or who lived. Those in whom the interval was longest (over 440 milliseconds) were at more than 40 times the risk of suffering a cot death.

Writing in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, the researchers say: "A prolonged QT interval in the first week of life represents an important risk factor and this information may be useful in the early identification of infants at risk of SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome)."

They add that traditional factors such as sleeping on the front and smoking by the mother

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

or increase the risks by much less. Parents are now advised to lay babies on their backs to sleep with their feet touching the end of the cot, not to smoke and to ensure infants are not wearing too many clothes or covered by too many blankets. Cot deaths in Britain have halved since 1991, when this advice was issued.

An editorial in the journal warns that it would be premature to give all new-born babies an ECG to measure their heart rhythm. Cot deaths are rare, the costs would be huge and it is unclear whether prescribing heart drugs such as beta-blockers for the affected babies would do more good than harm. There would also be the question of the emotional impact of a potentially lethal diagnosis on the family.

"However, the screening of high-risk infants - those with a family history of SIDS, or those who have had an acute life-threatening event - is appropriate and justified," the authors add.

The UK Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths urged caution. A spokesman said: "These are interesting results but any suggestion that neonatal screening should be undertaken is premature. Many infants will have a prolonged QT interval with no effect and even if a prolonged QT interval is found, it is unclear what can safely be done to correct it."

BBC enters digital age

A NEW era in television, as significant as the introduction of colour pictures, began yesterday but hardly anyone noticed.

Branding itself the pioneers of the digital age, the BBC yesterday switched on the world's first digital terrestrial television service from Crystal Palace, south-east London.

These first broadcasts will be made up of widescreen

BY JANINE GIBSON
Media Correspondent

World Cup coverage and previews of the BBC's digital channels. So, in theory, from yesterday anyone could start watching digital terrestrial television, but viewers will need to decode the signal by either buying a set-top-box or a new integrated TV set.

DAVID AARONOVITCH
Lord Archer is merely a victim of a series of accidents such as any of us might experience - if not all in the same lifetime

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Companies that fended off the carpetbaggers are beating the banks by keeping their interest rates lower

Building societies win the price war

BUILDING SOCIETIES that have stayed mutual have trounced rivals that floated on the stockmarket by outbidding them in the mortgage price war, it emerged yesterday.

Nationwide, the biggest society to stay mutual, announced it had sold more mortgages on its own than the Halifax, Abbey National and the Alliance & Leicester put together.

The results will put pressure on converted societies such as the Woolwich or Alliance & Leicester, which have seen their share of the country's mortgages shrink since they floated last year.

Prices of shares in the floated societies sank yesterday after the news of Nationwide's strength. The value of a typical Halifax windfall, which peaked at £3,300 last year, fell by nearly £100 to £2,838.

Determined to prove that they are more competitive because they do not have to pay dividends to shareholders, mutual building societies have been slashing the rates they

BY ANDREW VERITY

offer on mortgages. Nationwide has kept rates at 8.1 per cent compared to 8.7 per cent at most listed lenders.

By keeping its rates down, Nationwide grew its share of the mortgage market by more than half, lending 11.9 per cent of all net new loans in 1997, compared to a normal share of 7.7 per cent. In contrast, Halifax has seen its share dwindle to barely a third of its old size.

Nationwide also triumphed in the market for savings, taking an unprecedented 20 per cent share. While some of the new money was from "carpetbaggers" looking for another windfall, the building society has still taken on 300,000 new savers since last November, when it insisted new members must assign their windfall rights to charity.

The results were trumpeted yesterday as a vindication of mutual building societies that remain owned by their customers - rather than share-

holders. Since the stream of windfall flotations last year, mutuals have been under intense pressure to float and become banks.

Nationwide will next month face the second attempt in a year to force it to convert to a bank when members are urged to vote on a proposal at the society's AGM. Michael Hardern, the former butler who was defeated by a two thirds majority when he ran for election to the board last summer, has tabled the proposal. Andrew Muir, a 32-year-old recruitment consultant from Slough, has also secured the 50 nominations needed to run for election to Nationwide's board. He stops short of asking the society to float but insists it should give out some of its reserves.

The society yesterday warned of dire consequences for the UK mortgage market if members voted to convert to a bank. It said its mortgage and savings rates would worsen and it would be forced to focus on profits when offering savings

products. A vote in favour would also remove a prime source of competition to banks, Nationwide said.

Brian Davis, the chief executive, defended mutuality, pointing out the society had given £200m back to its members through better savings and mortgage rates and said this would rise to £300m in 1998.

"I can't see why anyone should be surprised that building societies are having this renaissance," he said. "In the aftermath of last year's wave of conversions... the distinction between building societies and banks is becoming increasingly apparent to consumers."

Abbey National yesterday boosted its rates by 0.25 per cent following the interest-rate rise last Thursday, the first mortgage lender to do so. Nationwide boosted its savings rates by 0.35 per cent without raising mortgage rates. Two other mutually owned savings groups - Standard Life and Bradford & Bingley - have also boosted rates.



Clive Miers, who has led a lone campaign arguing that redemption penalties are unenforceable in law Joan Russell

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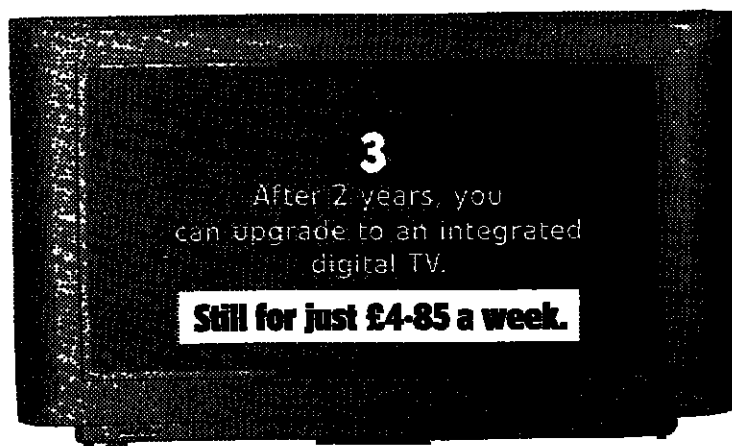
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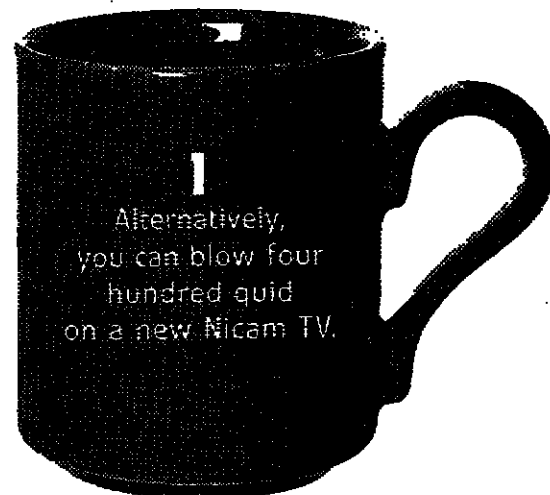


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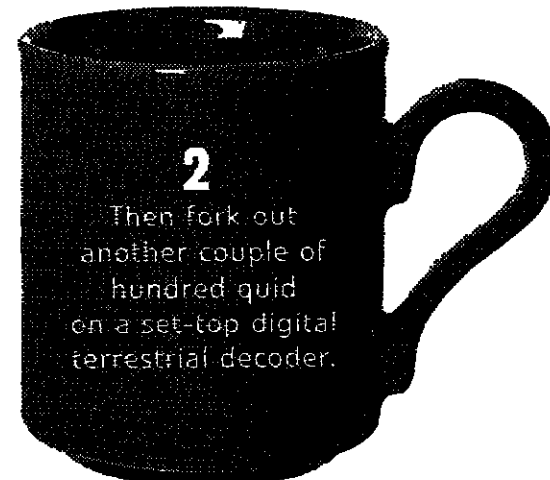


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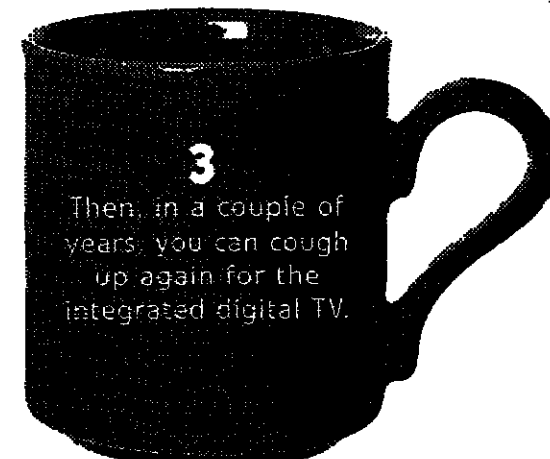
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... but they could have bad news for borrowers

BY CLIFFORD GERMAN

THE BUILDING societies meet today to discuss a plan to take all cheap up-front mortgage deals with built-in redemption penalties off the market. Existing deals would not be affected, but all new offers with cashbacks and discounts on standard variable mortgage rates could be abolished, leaving new borrowers with a much more limited choice of standard variable rates or fixed-rate mortgages.

The suggestion is part of a discussion document produced by Adrian Coles, director-general of the Building Societies Association. It will only lead to a change if it is also approved by banks and other mortgage lenders in the Council of Mortgage Lenders, who will hold a similar discussion next month.

The possible change has been attacked by critics who fear it is a step back to the days when mortgage lenders operated a cartel. Philip Cartwright, of mortgage brokers Chase de Vere, also claims the move would restrict consumer choice.

But many lenders are now anxious to see special offers withdrawn on the grounds that they have become too generous to borrowers, and are no longer necessary to create new business now the housing market has recovered from the downturn in the early Nineties.

Some also fear a backlash of public opinion from millions of borrowers whose special deals have now ended and find themselves locked in to their new lender by heavy penalties for early redemption.

Cashback and discount mortgages were originally introduced in response to the depressed state of the mortgage market in an attempt to win extra business. At the height of their popularity, borrowers could obtain a cashback of up to 6 per cent of their loan, or up to 6 per cent off their current

mortgage interest rates spread over one, two or three years before reverting to the standard variable rate.

Discount deals proved extremely popular and accounted for more than half of new mortgages in 1995 and 1996. Special offers were not normally available to existing customers unless they actually moved home. But hundreds of thousands of home-owners went to the trouble and expense of re-mortgaging their homes with different lenders in order to take advantage of special deals.

Borrowers who accepted special deals are, however, routinely prevented from moving on again once the discounts have ended by clauses in the small print of their mortgage contracts. Penalties for early repayment are usually equal to the size of the cashback or six months extra interest.

Clive Miers, a Leeds-based mortgage broker, has led a lone campaign arguing that redemption penalties are unenforceable in law, but none of the handful of court actions has yet succeeded. Meanwhile, an estimated 3 million borrowers who have taken out cashback and discount mortgages over the past few years are now suffering a "payment shock" as their special deals come to an end.

Their monthly payments are routinely reverting to the standard variable rate, at a time when variable mortgage rates have risen and are likely to rise again shortly. Abbey National yesterday raised its SVR to 8.95 per cent as a result of the latest increase in base rates. Other lenders are expected to follow.

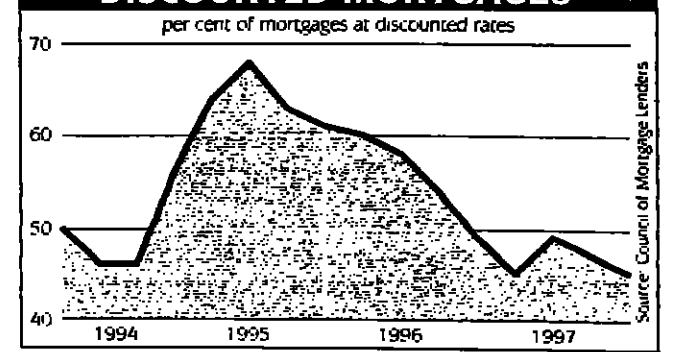
Lenders were also alarmed at the backlash against the Northern Rock when it unilaterally reduced interest rates on savings accounts, prompting the Office of Fair Trading to launch an investigation into unfair treatment of investors. Many now fear a similar backlash against redemption penalties.

If lenders do decide to withdraw cashback and discount deals in future it is most unlikely that existing borrowers will be released from their commitment to pay redemption penalties. Borrowers will still be offered a choice between variable rate and fixed rate mortgages.

Fixed rate mortgages have accounted for roughly half of all new loans in the past year, overtaking discount and cashback loans in popularity. They also routinely contain lock-in clauses which oblige borrowers to revert to the standard variable rate for up to two years once the fixed rate expires.

Lock-ins would be abolished on future fixed rate offers.

DISCOUNTED MORTGAGES



Sun's burning question answered

BY CHARLES ARTHUR

IT'S A question with which you could, for more than 50 years, shut up any physicist who was bothering you at a party. Why, exactly, is the sun's atmosphere hotter than its surface?

After all, the source of the heat from the fusion reactions at its core should be carried outwards. Yet the surface temperature is about 6,000°C, while that in the atmosphere is several million degrees. Observers could find no explanation.

But now the puzzle seems to have been solved. New data from an orbiting satellite called Yohkoh - Japanese for "sunbeam" - has shown that a clash of magnetic fields is probably the cause of the super-hot conditions above the sun's surface. Or, it works like an electric fire.

The outer part of the sun's atmosphere consists of huge, intensely hot loops of material that arch above the surface.

A team, led by Professor Eric Priest, of St Andrew's University, Scotland, has for the first time been able to measure how the temperature varies along these giant loops, using an X-ray telescope on the satellite, jointly funded by Britain, Japan and the United States. The observations were compared with predictions from theoretical models.

"Some felt that the heat should be deposited at the feet of the loop and then conducted, like the flow of heat along a red-hot poker, to the rest of the loop.

Others felt that the heat should be deposited at the summit of the loop, while a third camp predicted a uniform release of heat along the loop," said Professor Priest, whose results were published in the journal *Nature* today.

The observations showed clearly that the heat was deposited uniformly, just as the element of an electric fire is uniformly hot. The likeliest explanation was a clash of magnetic field lines, which would tangle in the solar atmosphere and then break. As they snapped, they caused dozens of explosions in tiny regions of intense electric current. This released energy across the loop, heating the atmosphere and producing the difference in temperature.

هكذا من الأصل

Scientists close to a TB vaccine

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Science and Technology Editor

THE COMPLETE DNA fingerprint of the biggest serial killer in history has been uncovered. A group of scientists announced yesterday that they have unravelled the 4,000 genes making up the entire genetic sequence of tuberculosis (TB), the bacterium responsible for millions of deaths throughout human history.

Using the information revealed by the genes, medical teams are now racing to develop vaccines against TB, to replace antibiotics which are rapidly losing out to drug-resistant strains of the bacterium. If successful, they might even wipe out TB in the same way that smallpox was eradicated in the 1980s.

"Despite the availability of short-course chemotherapy and the BCG vaccine, TB continues to claim more lives than any other infectious agent," said Dr Bart Barrell of the Sanger Centre in Hinxton, Cambridge, which co-operated with teams in France, the United States and Denmark to sequence the TB genome.

More than three million people die every year from TB, which infects the lungs. Strains resistant to antibiotics are on the rise, particularly in the industrialised world, where over-prescription of antibiotics, linked to high health-care costs,

has meant that people have helped to breed bacteria that can survive attack by those drugs.

In March the World Health Organisation said that TB - whose re-emergence it described in 1993 as a "global emergency" - could infect a billion more by 2020, and kill 70 million if control is not strengthened.

'TB continues to claim more lives than any other infectious agent'

However the new work, published today in the science journal *Nature*, offers a blueprint for future therapies that could defeat the disease.

"It lays the foundation for a lot of research in the next five to 10 years," said Douglas Young, of the Department of Infectious Disease at Imperial College, London. He was not involved in the work but applauded its results: "It was technically very difficult because of the characteristics of

the TB DNA, which contains high amounts of two base pairs, guanine and cytosine, that make it hard to sequence."

The TB genome is the largest disease bacterium ever sequenced, and took two years to complete. Even so, it pales against the Human Genome Project, which aims to sequence the estimated 100,000 genes in human DNA.

Being able to look at the entire genome of the bacterium means scientists can pick weak spots in its defences. One approach is to target proteins - antigens - which appear on its cell wall. A vaccine that contains these, could sensitise the human body against anything with those proteins.

Dr Young said such techniques would have the advantage that it should make it more difficult for resistant mutations to arise.

"Drugs generally attack just one target antigen, and the bacterium mutates away from that," he said. "But I think a vaccine based on this system would target two or more. To evade that, the bacterium would need multiple mutations, and that's not so likely."

The idea that TB could, like smallpox, eventually be driven from the face of the Earth, to a last resting place in laboratories, seemed more likely now, he added: "In theory, in the long term we could think about really doing that."



The Japanese sika deer has been targeted. Peter Gasson/Planet Earth Pictures

Why Japanese invaders face a Scottish cull

BY LINUS GREGORIADIS

A FAST-BREEDING species of deer is facing a cull in Scotland because it costs the forestry industry millions and is threatening the native red deer with extinction.

The policy of killing large numbers of Japanese sika deer has been agreed by the Forestry Commission, the Deer Commission for Scotland (DCS) and Scottish National Heritage amid fears that red deer could be wiped out within 50 years.

Under a plan backed by the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, teams of marksmen will target the elusive sika deer, whose invasion of Europe has drawn comparisons with that of the North American grey squirrel.

The sika population constitutes a small but growing proportion of Scotland's total deer population and it is feared that cross-breeding between the two could do irreversible damage to the red deer's genetic integrity.

Dick Youngman, technical director of the DCS, said the aim of the cull was to preserve areas not yet touched by sika rather than to wipe the Japanese deer out completely.

He said yesterday: "It isn't going to be a mass slaughter. This will be a controlled attempt to manage - but not eliminate

sika. We don't want colonising new areas and don't want them causing damage to woodlands."

"Hybridisation has opened in many areas of land, but there are parts of country where it hasn't occurred. To preserve the genetic form of red deer as we know them, we want to separate these areas."

There are plans to mark land sanctuaries for red deer in the Hebrides, on Harris, Lewis, North and South Uist, Barra, Islay and Jura. The sika, first brought to Scotland in the 1880s, is detrimental to the forest industry and agricultural producer because of the harmful effect its browsing, bark-stripping and grazing.

The Japanese deer breed much more quickly than red deer because calves reach sexual maturity at an earlier age than their native counterparts. They also breed all year round.

The DCS says there is strong evidence of cross-breeding in parts of Scotland and points to the southern of the Lake District and Wicklow, in Ireland, where there are now no "pure" deer left.

The cull will not be easy. deer's nocturnal nature and fondness for forest cover make it take hunters hours to find a single animal.

Billie-Jo's death was 'unreal'

BY LOUISE JURY

SION JENKINS said he was "living in a nightmare" when he found his foster daughter, Billie-Jo Jenkins, bludgeoned to death, a court heard yesterday.

Mr Jenkins, 40, told how everything seemed unreal when he was confronted with the girl's blood-soaked body on the patio of his house.

"From the moment I used my hands to touch her hair, an elephant could have been in the house and I wouldn't have noticed it. I was so shocked," the deputy headmaster said, in a statement read out at Lewes Crown Court. "Everything just seemed so unreal. I was waiting for everything to end. It was like a bad dream."

Mr Jenkins said he was in despair: "I was expecting someone to come in the morning and say hello and everything would return to normal."

Sion Jenkins is accused of murdering Billie-Jo, whom he and his wife Lois had fostered for five years, at their home in Hastings, East Sussex. He denies the charge.

In four days of interviews with Detective Constable Steven Hutt, Mr Jenkins told how the body of Billie-Jo was discovered by his 10-year-old natural daughter, Lottie, who

screamed "Dad" when they returned from her clarinet lesson in February last year.

Billie-Jo was lying on the patio where she had been painting the French windows and had been beaten about her head with an 18-inch metal tent peg.

Mr Jenkins said: "I crouched down and was looking at Billie. I saw lots of blood all around her head. The blood was thick, it didn't really look like blood, although it was."

After taking Lottie and another daughter, Annie, then 12, away from the scene, Mr Jenkins told police that he returned to Billie-Jo.

He said there was a squelching sound when he moved her shoulder and her head was limp. "I knew by this time that what had happened to Billie could not have been an accident."

But he said he spoke to her, reassuring her that people were coming to help. He then described how he noticed her forehead was misshapen and that she had a swollen eye as if she had been punched. A bubble of blood came out of her nose. "I believe she was alive at that moment in time," Jenkins told police.

He said he had left the 13-year-old girl painting because



Billie-Jo: 'Nightmare'

she wanted to do some chores to earn extra pocket money.

He had earlier shown her what to do and told her off when she painted the inside of the doors against his instructions. She had stuck her tongue out at him "in jest".

Mr Jenkins said he told the girl how to spread the paint and added: "I expected Billie to make a mess of it because I knew she was not a natural decorator. Billie was quite an impatient girl, but I wanted to give her a chance."

A short while later, he again noticed she was failing to do the painting neatly and crouched down himself to show her what to do. He described how, in horseplay, she had mounted his back and put her legs around his shoulders as he tried to paint. After climbing off, she asked if she was not doing the job properly. "I went over and cuddled her and said, 'of course you are'. She was the kind of girl who needed reassurance," Mr Jenkins said.

When Billie-Jo had joined the Jenkins family, her father had been in prison and she had spent a short time in care, the court heard. But she had adjusted to her new life and grown more confident, Sion Jenkins said.

The trial continues.

Jewellery's final frontier

BY CHARLES ARTHUR

DITCH DIAMONDS and forget about platinum. The most expensive jewellery of the 21st century will be made out of moon rock.

John Baines, from Newcastle, has teamed up with Space Quest, a firm based in his home town which has set up a Moon prospecting company, Lunar Gems Ltd, on the basis that "it seemed if it could be done an absolute fortune could be made".

Space Quest hopes that a round trip to the Moon will be possible by 2005 and that this will provide opportunities to pick up raw materials.

The venture is tempted by the prospect of big profits. In 1993 Sotheby's auctioned one

carat - 200 milligrams - for \$442,500 (\$276,550). That would make a kilogram worth \$2.2bn, or \$2.2m per gram. At those prices, a kilogram of moon rock would be worth far more than it would cost to get it.

However, Mr Baines faces stiff competition from American competitors, who may have an advantage in getting hold of venture capital. But according to one expert scientist, moon rocks would not look that great as earrings - "rather a dull grey colour" - and might be easy to forge.

Monica Grady, an expert in extraterrestrial materials at the Natural History Museum, in London, said: "There were a lot of venture capitalists sniffing around at the Lunar

Planetary Science conference in March, trying to raise money for a mission to the Moon. They wanted to do it with the Discovery TV Channel, which has a series of shops. They reckoned they could sell vials of moon dust for \$50 a piece."

While vials of dust might be saleable, she thinks that making jewellery would present a problem. "I don't think any of them would polish up very well. You would have to make sure you were getting rock, not soil. It might be that the cachet of owning something which costs thousands of dollars could make up for it being a dull grey colour."

"But I think there would probably be a lot of fakes," she added.

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vil on the road: black man torn limb from limb by white racists who gave him a lift

Savage Klan killing stuns America

IN CORNERS of the United States feel as forlorn as the flat, featureless borderlands of Texas and Louisiana. A journey through the dense forests reveals scattered towns where thick Fried Chicken and Donald's offer the only distractions. And at this time of year, as the oppressive heat sets the roads are dotted with d-kill, mostly squashed roadkill.

The remains strewn along a stretch of rural road outside the town of Jasper last Sunday morning, however, were not of an animal. They were the mangled body parts of 49-year-old James Byrd Jr.

On Tuesday, three white men were charged with his murder. The case is grisly almost beyond imagination. It risks inflaming racial tensions that simmer in American South more than a decade after desegregation - and it has sickened the nation.

Along a seven-mile stretch of road, police officers have eyed red circles on the tarmac - 75 in all. These are the spots where parts of Mr Byrd were found; a pair of dentures here, an arm there. Elsewhere his neck and, not too far off, his battered head.

As the three suspects were charged on Tuesday, the Jasper police offered a version of what they believe happened to Mr Byrd. It was a picture filled out by one of the accused, Shawn Berry, 23, who spilled details in interviews, claiming he played only a minor, reluctant role.

The other suspects, Lawrence Brewer, 31, and John King, 23, have tattoos that suggest affiliation to white supremacist groups. "The evidence was it will be racially motivated," Jasper's sheriff, Billy

BY DAVID USBORNE
in New York

Rowles, said of the alleged murder. All three men have served time in prison, as had Mr Byrd. Mr Byrd and Mr Berry shared a probation officer and knew each other.

Mr Byrd, a musician, was walking home on Sunday evening after attending a bridal shower for a niece in his parents' home. Mr Berry, who was riding in a pick-up truck with two friends, spotted him and suggested they give him a lift. He told police Mr King was unhappy about having a black passenger. After a visit to a shop, Mr King took the wheel.

When Mr King began to drive out of town to the east, Mr Berry apparently asked what he was doing. The answer, Mr Berry told police, was chilling. He was "fixin' to scare the shit out of this nigger". One of them allegedly added: "We're going to start the Turner Diaries early," in a reference to a novel about white hate, popular among the white supremacist groups.

In a remote wooded area, Mr King allegedly pulled over and dragged Mr Byrd from the passenger seat. He and Mr Brewer are then said to have knocked him to the ground and kicked him until he was unconscious.

Mr Berry said it was only after they drove off again that he realised what the pair had done next. Mr Brewer turned around and noted: "That fucker is bouncing all over the place".

Mr Byrd had been attached to the back bumper by a long chain round one of his ankles. As the vehicle gathered speed, his body came apart. His last journey, police said in affidavit, lasted for about two miles.

The police found more than just human remains on the



Clara Taylor holds pictures of her brother, James Byrd Jr, who was found beheaded on a Texas road. Lawrence Brewer, top, Shawn Berry, middle, and John King have been charged with his murder

road. Crucial evidence includes a spanner that has been traced to one of the suspects, and a cigarette lighter bearing a Ku Klux Klan symbol.

Nowhere is the shock deeper than in Jasper, a timber town of 7,500 people that is about 45 per cent black. Fear of racial violence stalks this region. At a press conference, Sheriff Rowles played down the influence of hate groups in his town. "We have no Aryan Nation or KKK in Jasper County," he declared, a statement that received derision from black people in the audience.

Kevin Kipp was among white residents to voice dismay. "I'm ashamed people could act like that around here," he said. "I grew up here and I can't even remember anything close to this". But blacks in Jasper are less surprised. Whispers have

spread that the killing of Mr Byrd was a warning. "It's rumoured that they are going to get two more blacks," Joe Shankle said. "I think they are sending a message to the black community".

One version doing the rounds has it that a note was found near the victim's body that read: "One down, two to go". Lessie Adams, another black resident, noted: "Racism is like death in Texas. You are always going to have it".

Richard Bishop, pastor of Church on the Rock in Jasper, added: "Everybody is afraid this will trigger off violence between blacks and whites. We're integrated by law, but segregated by heart. It took something like this to bring that sad fact out".

The president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the former congressman Kweisi Mfume, was leading calls for the Attorney-General, Janet Reno, to turn the murder charges into a federal crime.

There was dismay that under Texas law police were unable to charge the three with capital murder, which would carry the possibility of execution. If federal charges are brought, based on a violation of Mr Byrd's constitutional rights, capital murder charges might be possible.

The case will spotlight the myriad hate groups still thought to be flourishing across the United States. Charles Lee, the grand dragon of the East Texas KKK chapter, refused to say whether the hate group had members in Jasper County. Mr Byrd, meanwhile, was being mourned by his relatives.

Renee Mullins, one of his three children, said that her father was trying to go straight after a prison term for theft. "He had flaws," she said. "He got his life together, got him an apartment".

Stella Brunley, one of Mr Byrd's sisters, saw him for the last time at the bridal shower on Sunday afternoon. She reminded him about a big Father's Day gathering that the family was planning. She said he had promised to be there in his best suit. "I'll see you all, I love you all," he had said. He then left for his fateful encounter with the pick-up.

The route that Mr Byrd took holds one of the most poignant ironies of his sorry end. It was Martin Luther King Boulevard. The road where he ended up had no name. It ran alongside a cemetery.

French pilots end strike

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris

AIR FRANCE pilots ended their 10-day strike yesterday, accepting terms which looked worse than those they rejected last week. The unexpected collapse of the strike, after secret all-night negotiations, was a coup for the management of Air France, and for the French government.

The pilots' climb-down vindicates the tougher line taken by the airline, with the government's encouragement, since the weekend. It also follows angry noises from other Air France employees, who accused the pilots of "blackmail" and of threatening their livelihoods.

It will take a couple of days for Air France to return to normal services but the great majority of special internal flights promised for the World Cup should be honoured.

The government made it clear earlier this week that it was prepared to tolerate the embarrassment of the strike dragging on indefinitely into the World Cup. It calculated that the damage to France's reputation as a modern, welcoming nation had already been done.

This, in effect, took the controls of the dispute from the pilots' hands. Both sides claimed victory yesterday. The pilots said they had fought off the threat of a mandatory pay cut; the airline said it had achieved its target of a 250m-a-year saving in its pilots' wage bill.

As long as the settlement does not provoke a series of "me-too" demands from other employees, Air France should



Strauss-Kahn: blocked talk of government subsidy

now be able to proceed without further turbulence to its partial privatisation this autumn.

Significantly, it appears that the settlement has been achieved without a bail-out, or subsidy, from the government. Something of the kind was discussed last week but blocked by the finance minister, Dominique Strauss-Kahn.

Air France had asked its pilots to take a 15 per cent pay cut, to help finance the purchase of new aircraft and to help it cope with increased competition between European Union airlines.

In return, pilots were offered shares in the part-privatised company. It was agreed yesterday that this deal should be voluntary. Pilots who accepted the shares would have their wage cut restored after seven years. Pilots who refused the shares would have their wages frozen for seven years.

An almost identical deal, with slightly better terms, was refused by the pilots last week.

German army parades to the sound of jeers

BY IMRE KARACS
in Bonn

A RARE outing in Berlin by the German army was drowned in jeers and washed out by the rain yesterday as the city braced itself for a night of rioting.

For only the second time since the Second World War, the Bundeswehr attempted to perform a public swearing-in ceremony in the symbolic heart of German militarism.

Huge areas of Berlin became no-go zones, as police struggled to keep about a thousand protesters at bay.

Cordons were erected by 2,500 policemen to protect 332 conscripts who were armed to the teeth. But shouts of "murderers" still soared above the national anthem and several protesters were detained after trying to storm the barriers.

In streets away from the area, where demonstrations were allowed, protesters shout-

ed: "Bundeswehr - army of murderers". For 40 years, no German soldier was admitted to West Berlin. Eight years after reunification, the spectacle of remains controversial.

Critics of the ceremony, which is scheduled to be repeated on the main squares of 180 towns this year, complain of the militarisation of public life. They also point out the influence such spectacles might have on Nazi-inclined minds.

Military traditions have been gradually revived in recent years. But Volker Rühe, the defence minister, denied that the ceremony was a "militaristic relic". The event, he said, had become a "firm component of the culture of democratic Germany".



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Indians raise the stakes on casinos

HURLING ANGRY accusations of bad faith and broken promises, more than 100 representatives of Indian tribes in California came to Washington yesterday to pursue an escalating dispute over gambling rights on their reservations.

The dispute, which pits several dozen tribes against the state government, has reached crisis point in California. But it is replicated in many other parts of the United States, where gambling practices and the disposal of profits are upsetting the always delicate three-cornered relationship between Washington, the states, and the Native Americans.

In a highly unusual development, the California Indians, representing some 30 tribes in the state, were granted a meeting with the US administration's chief law officer, Janet Reno. Equally unusually, Ms Reno held the meeting in public, in the justice ministry, giving the Indians a nationwide forum for their grievance against the Republican governor of California, Pete Wilson.

At the session, six tribal chiefs presented their case. "What is this sovereignty thing you folks always talk about if it is not the right [for the reservation] to determine for itself its economy and its own way of life within its borders?" asked Mark Macarro of the Pechanga tribe.

"Indians have always been shortchanged," said Mary Ann Martin Andreas, chairwoman of the Morongo Indians. "There were virtually no jobs on the reservation before gaming; the county provided only welfare. Now we are being called to account for the crime of capitalism and free enterprise." What the state government proposed, she said, was little short of "economic genocide".

The meeting heard a heart-rending plea from Maria Figueroa to Ms Reno for help to keep her job in the casino run by the San Miguel Mission Band of California Indians. This, she said, let her support her children and stay off state welfare.

The immediate cause of the dispute is a demand by Mr Wilson that tribes cease using video slot machines as a condition of a deal that would make their casinos legal. He has threatened to raid the reservations and seize the machines unless the tribes shut them down.

The tribes maintain that the governor has no right to set pre-conditions for talks which they see as government to government negotiations. They insist that slot machines are essential to the casinos' profitability and

By MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

suspect California is being pressurised by the neighbouring state of Nevada, where the machines are legal and gambling is a major source of revenue.

Under federal legislation, passed in 1988, Indian reservations may run gambling operations, but only if they reach agreement on the terms with the state government. Each state also has the right to prevent Indians providing forms of gambling that are prohibited by its law. In California, video slot machines are illegal.

Indians in California were among the first to take advantage of the legislation. A decade later, these tribes, along with dozens of others across the US, have grown rich on the profits.

The California Indian chiefs in Washington yesterday said their casinos provided 32,000 jobs and had passed on \$160m (£100m) to the state and county governments in taxes and health and emergency service levies. The state has also saved more than \$30m in welfare payments.

While the change in Indian fortunes has been hailed by Indians and non-Indians alike, it presents a big challenge to the authorities. When reservations were poor, unattractive places, gambling could remain a pariah activity, out of sight and out of mind. As profits grew and hundreds of outsiders flocked to the casinos, the ethical aspect could no longer be ignored; nor could the dollars which the reservations were shovelling in, without paying a cent in tax.

Now, there are 184 tribes running 281 legal casinos across the US. They produce more than \$4.5bn in profits, some of which is remitted to state authorities. As in California, however, there are operations that have not been legalised and which the state governments may have the authority to close down.

The lawyer for the California tribes, Lanny Davies, said after yesterday's meeting that Ms Reno had given hope on two points.

She had accepted, in effect, that the Indians could negotiate without shutting down their machines first, and that they had the right to sue the state government if negotiations were refused.

Whether or not the governor of California agrees, the dispute looks set to continue - not, as some had feared, with violent sieges of the reservations, but peacefully in the courts.



A Native American Indian deals the hands at the Mystic Lake Casino in Minnesota

Colorific

Gambling rescues tribe's fortunes

By MATTHEW BRACE

THE SILVER Star casino in Mississippi may not be lucky for all its punters who throw coins into the slot machines, but it is certainly a success story for the Native American tribe that owns it. The state's only Native American-owned casino was opened in July 1994, at a cost of \$37m (£23m), by the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

Located near the small town of Philadelphia in the Heartland region, it now provides the Choctaw with enough revenue to fund their children's high school and university education - a remarkable advance for an independent, sovereign nation that not long ago was facing abject poverty and social decay.

The driving force behind the commercialisation of the Choctaw reservation was Phillip Martin, a tribal leader for more than 40 years and chief executive officer of the Silver Star, who helped turn the reservation into a business conglomerate employing 4,400 people and generating annual sales of \$360m.

The Silver Star has been the major factor in the reser-

vation's success. In just four years it has become the state's 10th largest employer. The complex includes a 100-room hotel, a caravan park, a 125-seat entertainment lounge and a gift shop. The casino holds 2,800 slot machines, 96 gaming tables, and a bingo hall that seats 800.

There is also a new 18-hole championship golf course, named after the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek, signed in 1830, which displaced 12,000 Mississippi Choctaws, forcing them to trek to new lands in Oklahoma and virtually wiping out the tribe.

The resort is a far cry from previous conditions on the reservation. Quoted last year in the Biloxi-Gulfport Sun Herald newspaper, Chief Phillip Martin, now 72, said that his people once had nothing, now they have much. "We had no water, no housing, no schools, no jobs. I believe in self-determination. There's no need to live in that situation as long as you can change it," he said.



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IN BRIEF

Tehran's mayor back in court

THE MAYOR of Tehran is due back in court today for what analysts expect to be another confrontation with the Iranian judiciary over charges of corruption. Gholamhossein Karbaschi faces up to five years in prison and huge fines if found guilty of the series of graft charges dating from his nine years as mayor of the capital.

Jews honour German president

GERMANY'S Jewish community awarded President Roman Herzog the Leo Baeck Prize yesterday for his efforts in building understanding among Germans, Jews and other groups. Ignatz Bubis, chairman of Germany's Central Council of Jews, which awards the prize, said Mr Herzog had used every possibility in his speeches to note Nazi atrocities so that they are not forgotten.

Capital party in Kazakhstan

PRESIDENT Nursultan Nazarbaev of Kazakhstan threw a coming-out party for Kazakhstan's new capital, Astana. The celebrations included a free concert, folk-dancing, games on horseback and a street parade. But many Kazaks said that the cost of the party was money that could have been spent on overdue wages and pensions.

Celebrating crocodile years

THE WORLD'S largest captive crocodile, Yai, celebrated his 26th birthday yesterday at a Thai zoo in the eastern outskirts of Bangkok with a fanfare, decorations laced with multi-coloured balloons and a meal of three chickens and two sharks. The reptile is 19ft 8in long and weighs 1,120kg.

HAMISH MCRAE

Politicians on the Left who call for more borrowing don't realise they are seeking to transfer resources from the poor to the rich

— THE THURSDAY REVIEW, PAGE 3 —

Belarus outrages West by evicting diplomats

AN ESCALATING conflict between the West and Belarus entered round two yesterday when the republic's president gave a group of ambassadors one more week to clear out of their residences in the capital, Minsk.

Alexander Lukashenko's decision to extend the deadline deferred - but did not defuse - a bizarre showdown that is deepening his small nation's reputation as the troublemaker of Eastern Europe.

Foreign diplomats based in the former Soviet republic, between Russia and Poland, have accused Belarus of trying to violate the Vienna Convention by ordering them out of a residential complex to make repairs to the plumbing and sewage system.

Belarusian authorities told the diplomats - most of them ambassadors - that they would not be allowed to return when

BY PHIL REEVES
in Moscow

the work was complete, but would have to find new premises.

The convention, which was last breached when Iranians seized the US embassy in Tehran in 1979, places diplomatic residences out of bounds to the domestic authorities.

The diplomats represent 20 countries, including Russia, Italy, France, Germany and the United States. Yesterday was the deadline for their eviction until Mr Lukashenko's intervention.

Some of the countries involved - notably the Americans - threatened to recall their representatives if it went ahead. The British residence is not involved, but an embassy spokesman in Minsk said yesterday that the Foreign Office was "prepared to recall our

ambassador for consultations if the measures had gone ahead."

He added: "Everyone accepts that the host country has the right to ask them to move premises. What they object to is being given an ultimatum to do so in a short time."

The dispute is the latest of many international incidents for Mr Lukashenko, a former collective farm director, who has earned a reputation as an eccentric but alarming dictator sitting on the faultline between Nato and Russia.

There was an outcry in Washington in 1995 after two US pilots were killed when their sports balloon was shot down after it drifted over the Belarus border during a competition.

The following year, Mr Lukashenko held a referendum extending his term in office and giving him sweeping control over the judiciary and parliament. During his four years in

power, he has been accused of suppressing opponents and of seizing control of the media. New laws are being planned to make insulting the president a criminal offence.

The outcry has been led by the US ambassador, Daniel Speckhardt. On Monday, as Belarusian workmen welded shut a gate to his residence, he and his family stood outside waving an American flag in protest.

The diplomatic complex, called Drodzy, is near Mr Lukashenko's residence. Suspicions abound that the president wants to take it over for his own officials. He has stated that he cannot tolerate Western missions, particularly the United States, as neighbours.

Mr Lukashenko has made no secret of his distaste for Washington and his fondness for the old Soviet Union. Soviet-era textbooks have been reintro-

duced into schools, as has a renamed version of the Pioneers, the Communist Party's children's organisation.

Yesterday, the decision to extend the deadline was represented by his staff as a magnificent act, brought about by the "personal intervention" of the president.

But this is unlikely to impress the diplomats. Their reaction to the threatened eviction has ranged from apopleptic - the French called it "unbearable and unacceptable" - to polite disapproval.

The latter was typified by one of Belarus's few friends, Russia, whose prime minister, Sergei Kiriyenko, was in Minsk yesterday. The Russian Foreign Ministry said: "Understanding the need for renovation of the compound's territory, we still consider this decision should be taken in accordance with international law."



The Belarus president Alexander Lukashenko, whose threat to western officials has enhanced his reputation as an alarming and eccentric dictator

Reuters

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Kurds feel pressure to do deal with Iraq

BY PATRICK COCKBURN

"IF SANCTIONS on Iraq are lifted and Saddam gets out of the box he has been in since the Gulf war, then the Kurds will have to do a deal with him or go to the mountains," said Hoshyar Zibari, a Kurdish leader.

The four million Iraqi Kurds, who have ruled themselves since 1991, are nervously watching the renewed confidence and strength of the Iraqi leader in the wake of his confrontation with the US and Britain in February.

Mr Zibari believes Baghdad is not in a hurry to reach an agreement with the Kurds because "it expects [the Kurds'] international protection to wither away".

American and British planes at present fly daily patrols over Kurdistan, north of the 36th parallel, from the Turkish airbase at Incirlik. The Kurds have also benefited since last year from increased aid through the oil-for-food plan agreed between Iraq and the UN.

Also, the savage civil war between Massoud Barzani, the leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), and Jalal Talabani, of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), has been replaced by talk of reconciliation.

But this may be only a brief hiatus for Iraqi Kurdistan, one of the most fought-over places on Earth in the past half-century.

Saddam Hussein withdrew his troops from his three Kurdish provinces to a fortified line in 1991. He expected the Kurdish leaders to fall out and the prospect of Kurdish self-determination to frighten Turkey and Iran, both of which have sizeable Kurdish minorities.

Seldom has a political calculation been so rapidly fulfilled. In 1994 a civil war started in which Mr Barzani took western Kurdistan and Mr Talabani took the east. Both sides looked to foreign allies.

In 1996, the Iraqi leader sent his tanks back into Kurdistan to help Mr Barzani capture Arbil, the Kurdish capital. Last year Mr Talabani launched an offensive which was thrown back by Turkish air strikes and artillery. He admitted to 273 dead, while the KDP said his real losses were between 800 and 1,000.

In an interview with *The Independent* in London, Mr Talabani said he believed that "while President Clinton is in office, sanctions will not be lifted". But he confirmed that Rafi al-Tikiti, head of the Iraqi Mukhabarat security police, visited him in his capital of Sulaimaniyah in February, "bringing greetings from the Iraqi leadership".

Mr Talabani said he supported reconciliation with the KDP and added: "So long as we are divided, it is very difficult to talk with Baghdad."

Mr Zibari said an understanding with the PUK would enable both parties to "get a better deal with Iraq". In either

case, the Kurds still face the problem that Saddam Hussein - or any other Iraqi leader - will only grant the Iraqi Kurds real autonomy out of weakness.

US officials in Washington are, for the first time, showing anxiety about the political price they are paying in order to maintain sanctions on Iraq.

They increasingly put the emphasis on trying to show flexibility over what Iraq can export and import, and on trying to keep oil revenues out of the hands of the Iraqi leader.

Mr Zibari said he expected a fresh crisis between the US and Iraq to occur in October when UN sanctions come up for renewal.

But Washington seems to have little appetite for such a confrontation. The US has withdrawn one aircraft carrier from its naval force in the Gulf. And this week, the Pentagon admitted it had pulled back its



Saddam: confident

Stealth bombers, dispatched to threaten Iraq with much fanfare earlier this year.

One Iraqi observer warned, however, that the US might react militarily in a fresh crisis. Its weakened position in the Middle East - thanks to its failure to deliver an Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement - means it cannot afford to be humiliated by Saddam Hussein.

From Baghdad's point of view, its policies in Kurdistan have paid off.

Tariq Aziz, Iraq's deputy prime minister, has regular talks with the KDP. A measure of the Kurdish need to conciliate old enemies is that these meetings are sometimes attended by Ali Hassan al-Majid, known to the Kurds as "Ali Chemical", because he killed thousands of Kurds with poison gas in 1988.

But the Kurds still hold some cards. As well as the US and British flights over the enclave, Iran and Turkey do not want to see Baghdad back in total control of its Kurdish provinces. Mr Zibari said: "We are the only real opposition to Baghdad in Iraq."

This is true. It might prove embarrassing to leave the Kurds entirely to the mercies of the Iraqi leader.

هكذا من الأصل

Happy chasing shadows in this war game

FRONTLINE
CCK AIRBASE
TAIWAN

IT MUST be the most polite frontline anywhere in the world, even though the stakes are extremely high and the military hardware is capable of delivering serious damage.

Situated close to the dead centre of Taiwan, at Taichung, the CCK Airbase, the largest military airbase in East Asia, is where any attack from the Chinese mainland would be first detected.

"We don't want to attack anybody," insists Major Frank Hsu, a soft-spoken Top Gun in the Taiwan airforce with some 1,000-hours flying experience under his belt.

Like almost everyone on the base, Major Hsu has not experienced the whiff of gunshot fired in anger. Yet they are sitting in the middle of one of Asia's hottest military zones.

Wearing an American-style pilot's jumpsuit with the wolf emblem of his squadron leaping off the left shoulder, Major Hsu is ready for action but understandably reluctant to go to war.

He insists that although Taiwan is assembling a formidable collection of air power to face the threat of attack from the Chinese mainland, the main function is defensive, with an emphasis on patrolling the Taiwan Strait which separates the two countries.

"Patrolling," he explains, "means I have fighters here, so it tells mainland China please don't come here. It's like

having a dog in your house. We say we love our dogs, but it is better if you don't come here to see them."

The house built by the Taiwanese is a spartan, sprawling airbase which has little of the flamboyance often favoured by the RAF.

The pilots are impressively well-educated, a great many are university graduates, and they hardly conform to the Top Gun gung-ho stereotypes of the Tom Cruise variety.

Some military analysts in the capital, Taipei, are fond of saying that their boys in the airforce are better trained and generally far sharper than their counterparts in China. This may be true, but Major Hsu is having none of it. "You never look down on your enemies," he insists.

In the old days, when the guys in faded leather jackets with the red, white and blue Chinese nationalist flag stencilled on the back were flying rickety old fighters, battle casualties were very high and dog-fights common.

In recent years, most of the casualties have come not from combat but from flying the ancient F104 fighters, which until last year were the backbone of the airforce.

A collection of the bulky F104s are still sitting around at the airbase, Major Hsu pats one of them without affection and says, "We call them flying coffins."

Many pilots lost their lives in this short-winged, far-from-stable plane. Their advanced age does not make them any better. Asked how old the F104s are, Major Hsu says, "older than me". He is 32.

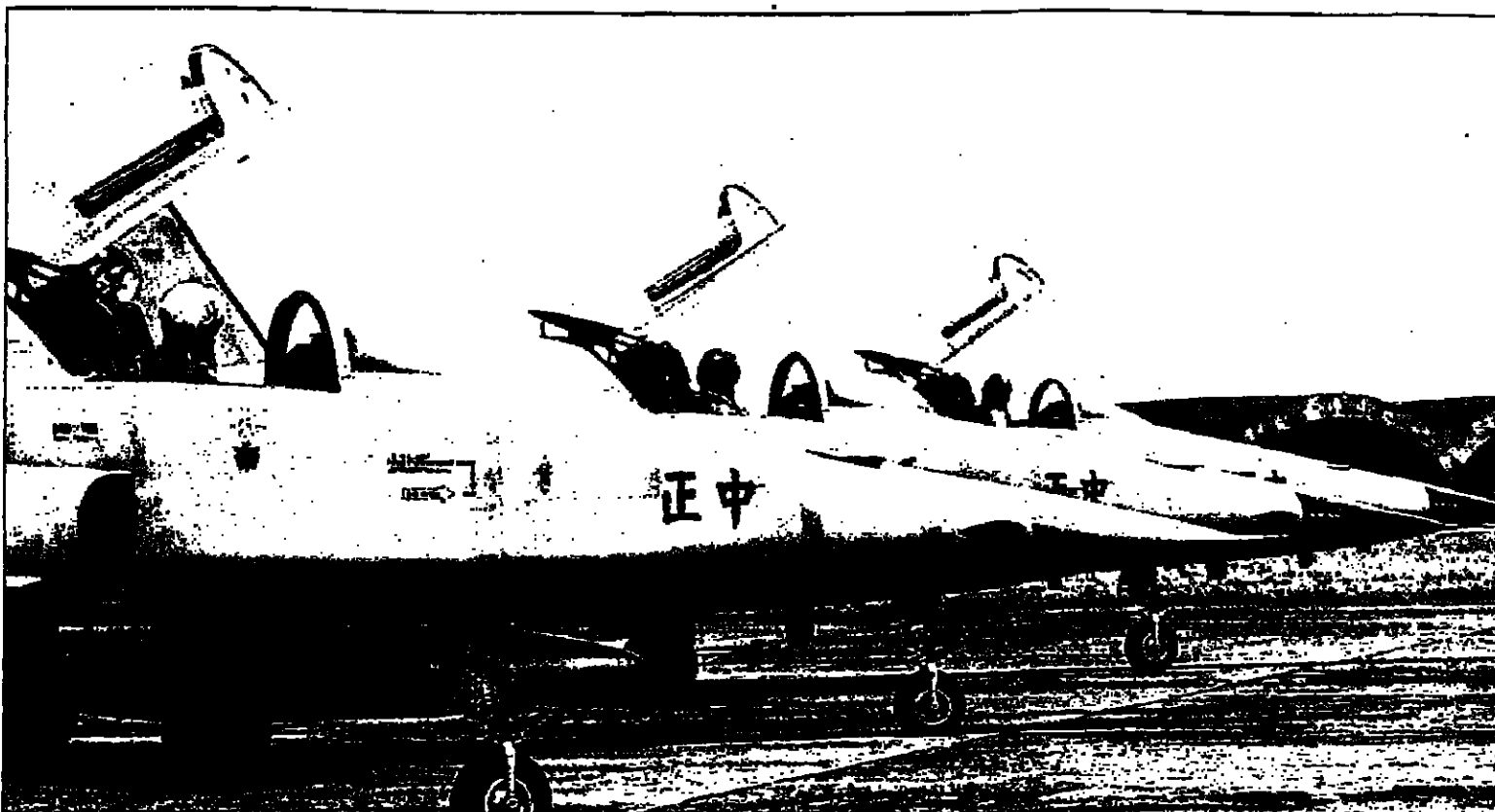
The CCK Airbase is separated from the mainland by no more than seven to eight minutes flying time in one of China's new state-of-the-art Russian jet fighters.

But in 10 years of flying, Major Hsu has never even seen a Chinese plane, let alone got into a dog-fight. "Nowadays," he says, "we don't suggest that our pilots should have a dog-fight with our enemies."

If things get hot, the first line of response is to fire off missiles and return to base.

But things do not tend to get hot. Taiwan patrols right up to its side of the Taiwan Strait while the Chinese patrols stick to their coastline.

The dangers of engagement in this confined area are so high and the consequences so unimaginable that both



In the last year the Taiwanese Air Force has upgraded all of its aircraft, previously it had relied on old US F104 fighters

Rea

sides are not looking for a fight.

There are reminders of the old days and old Cold Warriors on the walls of the airbase's tiny museum. Faded pictures show a visit by a broadly smiling Spiro Agnew, when he was Richard Nixon's vice-presi-

dent and Taiwan enjoyed close military cooperation with the United States.

During the Vietnam War, giant B52 bombers belonging to the US forces would take off from CCK loaded to the gills with masses of bombs designed to "bomb Vietnam back

to the Stone Age". At least that was the grand plan of such luminaries as Senator Barry Goldwater, whose picture also adorns the museum's walls.

The Americans left in the late 1960s as did their supplies of new aircraft. Until the Indigenous Defensive Fighter

(IDF) started coming on stream last year, the airforce had to make do with the ancient, US-supplied F104 fighters.

Sitting in the cramped cockpit of an IDF, confronted with a mass of paraphernalia, the whole business of war with China seems like a compli-

cated game. Of course, it is nothing of the kind.

These are killing machines and if they really got into battle the whole region could erupt. The problem is that it is hard to imagine Armageddon starting right here.

STEPHEN VINES

East Timor rejects 'sham' reforms offer

INDONESIA'S new president, BJ Habibie, is keen to sound conciliatory, but his declarations are falling on deaf ears, as protesters indicate that minor concessions are too little too late.

Mr Habibie—who last month replaced his ousted mentor, President Suharto—suggested this week that he was ready to offer East Timor "special status". But the East Timorese scornfully rejected the offer, which they regard as a sham.

Thousands demonstrated yesterday in Dili, the capital of the former Portuguese colony, which was invaded by Indonesia after the Portuguese withdrew in 1975. Buses packed with students drove in a convoy through Dili, shouting slogans in support of self-determination.

The justice minister said yesterday that President Habibie had signed a decree, according to which 15 East Timorese political prisoners would be released "as soon as possible".

But the list of those due to be released does not include the best-known prisoner, rebel leader Xanana Gusmao. Protesters yesterday chanted "Release Xanana", and unfurled banners with his image on.

The armed forces yesterday kept a low profile, but fear still runs deep. Dozens of people were killed when the army opened fire on a protest march in 1991. The Indonesian occupation of east Timor has never been internationally recognised.

BY STEVE CRAWSHAW

Mr Habibie's latest proposal is a clear advance on the uncompromising position of President Suharto, who argued that any special status for East Timor would be unacceptable.

But Jose Ramos-Horta, the Nobel-prizewinning leader of the East Timorese opposition, insisted that Mr Habibie's offer was "not a serious proposal".

He declared: "I am stating unequivocally that we reject it." Mr Ramos-Horta argued that Indonesia was "rehashing an old position, which requires that the United Nations recognise the illegal annexation of East Timor by Indonesia".

The Portuguese government was equally unimpressed. A foreign ministry spokesman suggested that Mr Habibie's declaration "demonstrates the inflexibility of the Jakarta government and does not permit any progress in negotiations".

The pressure for change throughout Indonesia remains strong. Student protests have continued since President Suharto's resignation. In East Timor, one pro-independence activist said this week: "The path is half-open. We feel free to express our ideas."

The pattern of dictatorship elsewhere has been that once change has begun, it has been difficult for the authorities to put a brake on reform. That is the dilemma Mr Habibie now faces.

Eritrea launches new attack on Ethiopia

ETHIOPIA SAID yesterday that Eritrean forces had launched a fresh attack on its positions in the heart of the disputed territory that has sparked a growing conflict between the two countries.

An Ethiopian government spokeswoman said fighting began at Erde Matios in Eritrea as Badme and by Ethiopia as Badame, the disputed area is a rocky 150-square-mile triangle of land along the western border. No details of casualties were available and there was no confirmation of the fighting from Eritrean officials.

Ethiopian and Eritrean forces battled for most of Tuesday around Zalambessa, the border

town on the main road between the two countries' capitals. Zalambessa is in Ethiopia and was captured by Eritrea last week. The Eritreans say this was to prevent Ethiopia from using it as a base from which to launch attacks.

Heavy fighting was reported on Tuesday and reporters saw casualties from both sides being taken to hospitals. But yesterday the area was calm.

With the conflict continuing, the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), at an annual summit in Burkina Faso on Tuesday, agreed in principle to send a peace mission to the area.

While Eritrea welcomed the move, Ethiopia expressed reservations.

BIDISHA

Anyone fancy a 'Vindaloo'? I know I don't. 'Vindaloo' is not so much a footie anthem as three media geezers desperate for cool.

— THE THURSDAY REVIEW, PAGE 4

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Cash Price £249.99, 20% deposit of £49.99, balance £199.99. 0% interest for 12 months. 12 monthly payments of £16.66 and the balance of £249.99. 48 monthly payments of £22.92. 24 monthly payments of £22.92. 36 monthly payments of £22.92. 48 monthly payments of £22.92. 60 monthly payments of £22.92. 72 monthly payments of £22.92. 84 monthly payments of £22.92. 96 monthly payments of £22.92. 108 monthly payments of £22.92. 120 monthly payments of £22.92. 132 monthly payments of £22.92. 144 monthly payments of £22.92. 168 monthly payments of £22.92. 192 monthly payments of £22.92. 216 monthly payments of £22.92. 240 monthly payments of £22.92. 264 monthly payments of £22.92. 288 monthly payments of £22.92. 312 monthly payments of £22.92. 336 monthly payments of £22.92. 360 monthly payments of £22.92. 384 monthly payments of £22.92. 408 monthly payments of £22.92. 432 monthly payments of £22.92. 456 monthly payments of £22.92. 480 monthly payments of £22.92. 504 monthly payments of £22.92. 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No mistaking. EFR, the biggest breakthrough in mobile phones since digital replaced analogue, provides you with speech quality comparable to your home or office phone. Enhanced digital sound is just the first of many ongoing innovations only available on  One 2 One's new Precept service.

A service designed specifically for people who rely heavily on their mobile phone.

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nothing should interfere with your business

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E-mail: IndyBusiness@Independent.co.uk

BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Born-again WPP joins the FTSE 100

Advertising group WPP yesterday marked its recovery from near-bankruptcy when it was included in the FTSE 100 index of leading shares for the first time in its history. WPP joins Stagecoach, the bus and train operator, which also entered the index yesterday. Retailer Next and Wolsley, the building materials group, are the two companies which fall out of the index. WPP was built up by chief executive Martin Sorrell (below) through a series of audacious acquisitions in the late 1980s, but came close to collapse during the recession when advertising revenues dried up. A massive debt for equity swap rebuilt WPP's balance sheet, however, and the company has grown rapidly ever since - helping Mr Sorrell amass an £18m fortune through his controversial share option package. Stagecoach's inclusion crowns the success of Brian Souter and Ann Gloag, who started off running bus services in Scotland before expanding rapidly through a series of acquisitions. Next, meanwhile, is the victim of its shock profit warning earlier this year.



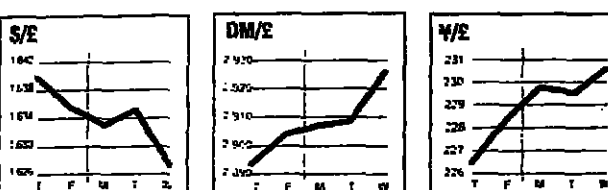
Derek Pain, page 23

Cortec founder claims he was sacked

Glen Travers, the founder of the Cortec bio-technology group, claimed yesterday that he was in effect sacked by the company on Monday and had not resigned as the board had claimed. The 42-year-old Anglo-Australian entrepreneur claimed he was invited to resign as chairman and chief executive "without warning" on Monday. Mr Travers issued a statement through his lawyer yesterday saying he wanted to clarify the events leading to his departure and to bring about a "speedy settlement."

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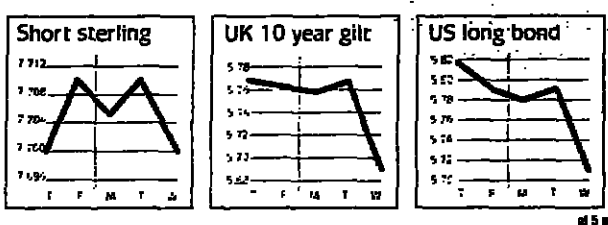
STOCK MARKETS



Three lowest index and graph in five

Index	Close	Change	Change(%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield(%)
FTSE 100	5987.40	-32.40	-0.54	6150.50	4382.80	3.87
FTSE 250	5936.90	-29.70	-0.50	5970.90	4384.20	2.97
FTSE 350	2913.70	-15.60	-0.53	2940.10	2141.80	3.70
FTSE All Share	2847.83	-14.62	-0.51	2872.04	2105.59	3.65
FTSE SmallCap	2781.40	-5.70	-0.21	2793.80	2182.10	2.94
FTSE Realind	1516.00	-1.10	-0.07	1517.10	1225.20	2.95
FTSE AIM	1140.50	-2.20	-0.19	1146.90	965.90	1.08
FTSE EOLC 100	1056.76	1.67	0.16			
Dow Jones	9059.14	10.21	0.11	9261.91	6971.32	1.57
Nikkei	15359.26	-190.91	-1.23	20910.79	14488.21	0.99
Hong Kong	7979.37	-112.08	-1.41	16820.31	7909.13	5.18
Dax	5754.46	-5.97	-0.10	5787.70	3487.24	3.76

INTEREST RATES

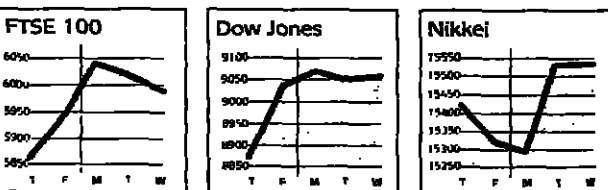


Money Market Rates	3 month	1 yr	1 yr	1 yr	1 yr	1 yr	1 yr
UK	7.69	0.96	7.73	0.60	5.69	-1.42	5.44
US	5.69	-0.13	5.88	-0.31	5.52	-1.05	5.71
Japan	0.54	-0.07	0.58	-0.34	1.48	-1.25	1.98
Germany	3.57	0.42	3.91	0.61	4.81	-0.96	5.36

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Falls	Price	Change	Price	Change	Price	Change
Brit. Wheat	42.25	2.75	6.96	Sage group	1585	57.5	3.78
AFI Fund	67.00	6.00	6.10	Cash Bros	325	32.5	3.64
Thistle Hat	250.00	12.50	5.26	BTG	806.3	27.5	3.53
Brake Bros	1065.00	50.00	4.93	Morgan Crac	448.5	15	3.46
Logica	1825.00	72.50	4.14	CGU	1208	40	3.42

CURRENCIES



Pound	at 5pm	Change	Tr. App.	Dollar	at 5pm	Change	Tr. App.
Dollar	1.6278	-0.72c	1.6372	Sterling	0.6143	+0.27p	0.6108
D-Mark	2.9255	+1.88pf	2.9180	D-Mark	1.7980	+1.75pf	1.7186
Yen	230.55	+Y1.23	183.76	Yen	141.57	+Y1.32	112.28
E index	103.90	0.00	99.70	E index	112.00	0.00	102.10

OTHER INDICATORS

at 5pm	Change	Tr. App.	Index	at 5pm	Change	Tr. App.	Index
Brent Oil (\$)	12.29	-0.03	16.88	GDP	114.70	2.90	111.47
Gold (\$)	293.65	0.10	344.05	RPI	162.60	4.00	156.35
Silver (\$)	5.36	-0.11	4.78	Base Rates	7.50	6.50	

www.bloomberg.com/uk

source: Bloomberg

TOURIST RATES

Australia (\$)	2.7103	Malaysia (ringgit)	6.2784
Austria (schillings)	19.90	Malta (lira)	0.6188
Belgium (francs)	59.53	Mexican (nuevo peso)	12.96
Canada (\$)	2.3333	Netherlands (guilders)	3.1925
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8289	New Zealand (\$)	3.1748
Denmark (krone)	10.86	Norway (krone)	12.04
Finland (markka)	8.8645	Portugal (escudos)	287.90
France (francs)	9.5085	Saudi Arabia (rials)	5.9642
Germany (marks)	2.9441	Singapore (\$)	2.9990
Greece (drachmas)	477.76	Spain (pesetas)	240.24
Hong Kong (\$)	12.30	South Africa (rand)	8.1793
Ireland (pounds)	1.1220	Sweden (krone)	12.84
India (rupees)	63.85	Switzerland (francs)	2.3572
Israel (shekels)	5.5156	Thailand (bahts)	64.06
Italy (lira)	2902	Turkey (liras)	408969
Japan (yen)	226.70	USA (\$)	1.5999

Nationwide fires the first shot in fight to stay mutual

BY ANDREW VERITY

NATIONWIDE, the world's biggest building society, yesterday fired the opening shots in a renewed campaign to stay mutual as it announced unprecedented success in attracting savers and borrowers.

Pointing to a 55 per cent boost in its share of the mortgage market, executives said they would be handing £300m back to members in better saving and borrowing rates, £100m more than last year.

The society claimed it "could not lose" in the price war for savings and mortgages as it hiked its savings rates by 0.35 per cent, 10 basis

points more than the rise in base rates last Thursday.

A dramatic influx of savers gave Nationwide an exceptional 20 per cent of the market in the year to April, boosting its savings balances from £27bn to £33bn and contributing to a bumper rise in profits of 40.6 per cent. Assets grew by 16.4 per cent to £47.1bn.

The society faces a vote next month on a proposal to take steps towards converting the society to a bank. Nearly 8 million customers will receive voting forms over the next week.

Two members in favour of conversion, Michael Hardern and Andrew Muir, are standing

for election to the board. Brian Davis, the chief executive, said the results were possible because Nationwide could undercut rivals who paid dividends to shareholders. The society now offers a variable rate mortgage at 8.1 per cent - against 8.7 per cent for most converted societies.

"One has to ask why our competitors in the market have been getting up and giving lectures as to why we should convert. At the end of the day it will be very much to their advantage if we do convert."

"The markets will see our results today and they will see what a strong competitor we

are and I don't think that can be anything but bad news for them. There is no way we can lose a pricing war."

Nationwide said the average member with a £50,000 mortgage would gain £250 a year if its rates were half a percentage point below other lenders. Members in favour of conversion have proposed a windfall worth £500 per member.

If the July vote is in favour of staying mutual, the society will be protected by regulations from holding another conversion vote for the next three years.

The robust set of results rebounded on converted soci-

eties yesterday. Halifax saw its share price sink by more than 3 per cent to 881p, valuing the average windfall of £30 shares at £2841. Alliance & Leicester slipped to 825p from 833p.

Abbey National shares dipped by 3 per cent to 1,079p but recovered after it announced a hike in interest rates of 0.25 percentage points. Mortgages between £50,000 and £100,000 will now cost 8.9 per cent.

Other banks are likely to copy the rate rise over the next two weeks. Mutual building societies, which resisted the last rate rise as part of their battle for market share,

are set to raise rates. But they are adamant they can keep rates lower than banks.

Converted societies have been hit hard recently by volatility in their share prices. Halifax shares rose from 502p when it floated last July to 1,000p at the end of 1997 before settling back to their current price.

Mr Davis also attacked rivals savings groups such as Tesco and Northern Rock for seeking to attract new savers with higher rates than they pay to existing customers. He called for such practices - known as "portfolio management" - to be banned.

Outlook, page 19

HOW THE MPC MEMBERS CHANGED THEIR MINDS ON INTEREST RATES

	DeAnne Julius	Charles Goodhart	John Vickers	Melvyn King	Eddie George	David Clementi	Ian Plenderleith	Willem Buiter	Alan Budd
Jan	No change	Higher	Absent	No change	No change	No change	No change	Higher	Higher
Feb/Mar	No change	Higher	Absent	Higher	No change	No change	No change	Higher	Higher
April	No change	No change	Absent	Higher	No change	No change	No change	Higher	Higher
May	Cut	Higher	Absent	No change	No change	No change	No change	Higher	No change
Forecast for June	Cut	Higher	Higher	Higher	Higher	Higher	Higher	Higher	Higher

City confused over MPC U-turn

BY DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

CONFUSION REIGNED in the City yesterday after it emerged that the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) had staged a U-turn on interest rates between last month and last week.

Minutes of the May MPC meeting released yesterday revealed that the majority in favour of leaving the cost of loans unchanged had increased compared with April. One member, DeAnne Julius, actually voted in favour of a cut in interest rates, while only one, Willem Buiter, was still voting for an increase.

By last week, however, enough members had switched for a majority to favour a quarter point rise in interest rates. Money markets were awash with speculation over who had voted which way in the June meeting.

The Prime Minister, Tony Blair, defended last week's interest rate increase as "absolutely necessary", and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown also defended the MPC. "It is a system which is credible and brings greater credibility to monetary policy," he said.

But the surprise news about the May vote left analysts very uncertain about the outlook for interest rates. Few are now prepared to rule out the pos-

sibility of a further increase, although the betting in the sterling futures market is that there will not be another.

The financial markets will be sensitive to every nuance in tonight's Mansion House speech by Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England. "People are flabbergasted, and feel that anything is possible," said Roger Bootle, chief economist at HSBC Markets.

The minutes identified four distinct views about rates amongst the eight members present at May's MPC meeting: raise now, raise later, wait and see and cut now.

Professor Buiter, in favour of an immediate increase, stressed the inflationary

potential of the minimum wage, a fall in sterling and the possibility of bigger rises in share prices than the Bank had assumed in its forecast.

Ms Julius emphasised signs that the economy, including parts of the service sector, was slowing, and policy was tighter than was necessary. However, in a forthcoming article for *The Independent* to be published this Monday, Ms Julius argues that the economy's shift towards services could mean interest rates will need to move more over the course of a business cycle than in the past.

The "wait and see" group - thought to consist of Eddie George and two other Bank

insiders, David Clementi and Ian Plenderleith - pointed out that there had been little new information since April, the decision was finely balanced, and there would be no harm in waiting for clearer signals.

The subtly different "raise later" group warned of the risk of a rapid fall in the pound and added: "The implication of the minimum wage was that future policy would need to be tighter than otherwise."

The puzzled band of MPC-watchers in the City concluded that three things must have tipped the June vote the other way. Sterling had weakened and new figures had shown a leap in average earnings growth. In addition the ninth

and final member, John Vickers, had joined the MPC.

The Bank had its defenders. Steven Bell, chief economist at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, said: "Any sensible economist would be flip-flopping because the evidence has been moving around so much."

But many experts compared the Bank of England's approach unfavourably with the US Federal Reserve.

"The Fed's Open Markets Committee hammers out the differences behind the scenes. You can read the debate in the minutes but it is not exposed in the recorded votes," said Eric Fishwick at Nikko Europe.

Power plan 'could cost industry £40m'

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

SCOTTISH HYDRO-ELECTRIC warned yesterday that it could cost the company up to £40m if the Government goes ahead with plans to block further gas-fired power stations.

The company said that if ministers wanted to prevent the country from becoming over-dependent on one source of fuel for electricity generation, then a better solution must be found. One possibility, it said, would be to introduce fuel tradable "permit" system, under which electricity suppliers would only be allowed to obtain a certain proportion of their power supplies from one fuel source. Roger Young,

chief executive of Hydro-Electric, said the permit system would be a means of allowing a free market to operate while preventing one fuel from becoming dominant.

The Government is due to announce next week the results of its energy review, designed to safeguard the future of the coal industry.

One option ministers are studying is a ban on further gas-fired stations. Hydro-Electric already has planning consent to extend capacity at two gas-fired stations - Keadby in Runcorn and Seabank in Bristol - by a total of 1,100 megawatts. This would reduce the market for coal by 3 million tonnes, equivalent to the out-

put of one large pit. The company has so far spent £30m-£40m on preparations to extend the two plants - investment that would be wasted if the moratorium on gas-fired generation was extended.

Hydro-Electric's expansion south of the border helped it lift profits by 3 per cent to £213m last year. Profits from its English generating interests rose 57 per cent last year to £88m and now contribute a third more to group profits than the company's Scottish power stations. The contribution will grow further this year when the 750 megawatt Seabank station, built as a half-and-half joint venture with BG, comes on stream at Christmas.

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

GRANADA, the leisure conglomerate, is in talks with hotel operators in the US and the Far East about forming a series of alliances which would allow it to reach a new range of customers.

Granada yesterday said the group had been talking to different hotel groups for about six months. "The key issue in the hotel business is global alliances," said Gerry Robinson, chairman. "The ideal partner is one who is strong where you're not."

An alliance would allow Granada to promote its hotels, which include the Meridian and Posthouse names, to cus-

tomers in other continents. Mr Robinson compared the discussions to alliances in the airline industry where operators have formed agreements to share flights.

Charles Allen, chief executive said he could foresee Granada agreeing a two-way or even four-way deal with other operators. "The condition is whether parties are capable of working together," he said, adding that the groups would have to agree to share loyalty schemes and other offers. He said he expected a deal to be signed within the next year.

Meanwhile, Mr Robinson said Granada was likely to sell its 11 per cent stake in British

Sky Broadcasting over the next four or five years.

Mr Robinson recently resigned as chairman of the satellite television group after it clashed with British Digital Broadcasting, the rival broadcaster of which Granada owns 50 per cent.

"It was not easy to sit in both camps," Mr Robinson said. He was speaking as Granada reported profits before tax and exceptional items of £274m for the half year to 28 March, a rise of 13 per cent. In the ongoing businesses, turnover increased by 12 per cent to £1.93bn, while earnings per share improved to 22.7p from 21.1p.

Investment Column, page 23

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

ALAN GREENSPAN helped London shares to rally. At one time Footsie was down 75 points, largely on Far Eastern worries but a neutral, if cautious, speech by the US Federal Reserve chairman, helped sentiment and, with Wall Street overcoming early hesitancy, the index loss was reduced to 32.4 at 5,987.4 by the close. CGU, the result of the Commercial Union/General Accident merger, was the best performing blue chip, gaining 40p to 1,308p. See Market Report, page 23

RUSSIA

Markets across Eastern Europe fell yesterday as Russia's economic turmoil worsened when it failed to raise the necessary 7bn rubles (\$1.1bn) to repay maturing debt. The leading RTS shares index fell 6.21 per cent in an uncertain market, traders said.

The International Monetary Fund is expected to hand over a \$670m tranche of Russia's \$9.2bn loan to a week or so, but markets were hoping the G7 would announce more aid.

TOKYO

Japanese stocks fell for the third time in four days following the sell off in Hong Kong, amid growing concerns that economic turmoil in Asia will increase the burden of bad loans weighing on banks' profits. "When the market saw Hong Kong take a plunge, it pushed the Asia panic button," said Koji Tada, a general manager at Towa Securities Co's equity department. "Banks with high exposure to the region are taking a beating." The Nikkei 225 stock index fell 190.91 points, or 1.23 per cent, to 15,339.26.

HONG KONG

Asian financial markets tumbled back into turmoil on Wednesday, casting a cloud over European bourses and sending investors heading for shelter in bonds. Worries yen weakness could spark a devaluation of the Chinese yuan led to a massive speculative attack on the Hong Kong dollar and sparked a round of lows in equity markets. Hong Kong's Hang Seng plunged nearly 5 per cent to 7,979.37, its lowest level in more than three years. News analysis, page 19

NEW YORK

US stocks were mixed in morning trading as calming remarks by Alan Greenspan over the outlook for interest rates offset concern that Asia's economic slump will cut into US corporate profit growth. Mr Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve, said that the central bank sees no need to raise interest rates, given that the economy is slowing and inflation is in check. "The Dow Jones rose 38.61, or 0.4 percent, to 9088.53, in mid-afternoon trading. Greenspan's testimony, page 19

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Japan faces dilemma over currency

Just as everyone thinks the Asian crisis is beginning to ebb, it seems repeatedly to flow with renewed strength once more. China's implied threat to devalue the renminbi if the yen continues its fall, marks a new and potentially frightening turn of events. If China enters the game of competitive devaluation which has beset the region, then Hong Kong's dollar peg - a haven of strength throughout the crisis - cannot survive, notwithstanding the former colony's massive reserves of foreign currency. Its economy is just too linked in to that of China to suffer such a competitive disadvantage without massive recessionary consequences.

And if Hong Kong abandons the peg, then its safe haven status and importance as a business centre will be gone for good. No wonder the markets were so rattled by Dai Xianglong's carefully chosen words. China's central bank governor seemed to be threatening Hong Kong with a demise even more complete than the red army would be capable of.

Most currency analysts agree that the yen is now almost certainly undervalued against the dollar after the steep decline of the last two



OUTLOOK

years, but that doesn't necessarily mean the trend will be reversed.

With the Japanese domestic economy mired in a deflationary recession, buoyant exports supported by a weak currency have become one of the few bright spots in an otherwise pitiless landscape. The Japanese authorities have no incentive to support the yen. Nor could they through the traditional mechanism of interest rates, for the Japanese domestic economy needs an increase in rates like a hole in the head.

Japan's crisis is a very different one from that which besets the former tiger economies of the region, but the two have become fatally

linked. Japan's own economic paralysis is in serious danger of deepening the separate crisis that exists elsewhere. As even the solution can only come from Japan, the economic powerhouse of the region. However, other than persevere with economic reform, the benefits of which will take many years to show through, it is hard to see what else the Japanese government can do.

Even if the public finances could take it, tax cuts in Japan in present circumstances are a zero sum game. The extra spending power goes not into consumption but into savings. Some ingenious alternative proposals for refloating the economy have been proposed, such as Paul Krugman's idea that the Bank of Japan should simply print more money and then, rather in the nature of UN aid, air dump it on the Japanese population.

In most circumstances such a policy would be tantamount to debasing the coinage; its effect would be highly inflationary. Since Japan's problem is one of deflation, then this doesn't amount to a difficulty. However, it is easy to understand why this policy has rarely been used before, even in deflationary conditions, and the chances of Japan adopting

such a radical approach are pretty much zero. At this juncture, it is still hard to see how South East Asia is going to find a way out of its economic gloom.

Down. No, up. Er, hang on...

WHEN GORDON BROWN announced just over a year ago that he was giving the Bank of England the independence to set interest rates, the common reaction was that this would make for tougher monetary policy. This certainly seems to have been the Chancellor's intention: it is pretty clear that he would have liked higher interest rates at an earlier stage, rather than having the policy debate drag on for so long. Instead, we have the fascinating sport of MPC watching. A collective of economists and central bankers has turned out to be a more complex organism than everybody assumed. News that one of them actually voted for a decrease in rates only a month before rates were raised has confused the picture yet further.

One of the MPC's chief characteristics is that the pointy-heads on the committee - as the City has dismissively labelled the former academics - seem to value consistency in their analysis over consistency in their votes. This ought to have been predictable, but nobody foresaw it. As a result, when the evidence on the balance of the economy shifts from month to month, these people see nothing wrong with shifting their votes accordingly.

One member, Mervyn King, likes to say monetary policy should be completely boring and predictable thanks to the transparency of the process. On his terms, it probably is predictable - you just have to look at the data the way he and his colleagues do.

This is what distinguishes them from the pragmatic, wait and see group of bankers, Eddie George, David Clement and Ian Plenderleith, who value the consistency of policy more highly. As one senior City figure put it yesterday: "Eddie has no control over the MPC. He's got his poodles but the rest are greyhounds sprinting away into the distance."

Does this mean the current arrangements are becoming unworkable? Not necessarily. After all,

nobody thinks interest rates are wildly wrong. The Bank will probably have to rethink its policy of delaying publication of the minutes for six weeks, and might have to retreat from giving details of who voted which way. Perhaps it should adopt the Fed's approach of setting out the policy arguments in the minutes without personalising them. This would have less entertainment value than the present arrangements, but it might lead to a greater cohesion in decision making.

But the more serious question posed by yesterday's minutes is not what happened six weeks ago, but whether the Governor was on the winning or losing side when the decision was taken to raise rates last week. If the latter, it certainly does harm the MPC's credibility, for it means Mr George is in charge of carrying out a policy he does not agree with. This really would be a nasty surprise.

Jobs for the local boys

IN THE late 1980s and early 1990s, Standard Chartered had an unenviable reputation for being a not

very successful relic of Empire. A string of sour loans to the likes of Polly Peck and Brent Walker brought the international bank's UK expansion to a stop. Malcolm Williamson was parachuted in from Barclays to clean the place up and "decolonialise" the bank, or in other words to clear out all those creaking relics of Britain's imperial past. Now the bank's management has far fewer chaps sent out from London, and rather more locally recruited people.

Rana Talwar's appointment yesterday as the man to succeed Mr Williamson is thus a defining moment in more ways than one. Whilst the bank insists Mr Talwar's selection was on merit alone - and his globe-trotting career with Citicorp speaks for itself - the appointment of an Asian, and a native from one of Britain's former colonies at that, will both accelerate the modernisation of the bank as well as acting as a powerful role model for the recruitment of local management talent. Asia's financial woes will continue to knock the bank's share price, but structurally and professionally it seems to be improving all the time. What an advance on 10 years ago.

IN BRIEF

Minister's pledge to consumers

Competition and consumer affairs minister Nigel Griffiths said he is proposing measures that will give consumers more protection from unscrupulous doorstep sellers, including new gas and electricity suppliers.

Under the new proposals, put forward in a consultation paper published today, current regulations will be amended so that consumers who agree to a visit following an approach by a canvasser retain their right to a cooling off period. Griffiths said he is also proposing criminal sanctions against traders who fail to inform customers of their rights, including a maximum fine of £2,500. He said the proposed regulations would apply to most sectors where the cost of the goods or services is at least £35.

Trust to switch

Murray Ventures Investment Trust has announced restructuring plans that will enable it to concentrate on unlisted securities. Under the proposals, the existing investment trust will be wound up and shareholders given shares in a new investment trust focusing on unlisted securities and units in a new unit trust, the Murray Cash Fund. The company said the £40m realised from disposals would be transferred to the cash fund with the remaining assets going into the new investment trust. The company said it had already received letters of intent from 43.6 per cent of shareholders supporting the plans.

Director's pay-off

A Powergen director who lost his job last year received a pay-off worth almost £500,000. Dr Alf Roberts, former director of new ventures, received severance pay of £446,000 and was allowed to retain 96,500 share options, currently showing a paper profit of £141,000.

BAe's £9m

British Aerospace said the communications and data systems division of its British Aerospace Defence Systems Ltd unit have been awarded a contract worth around £9m by the UK Ministry of Defence covering the development, production and installation of ship and shore systems to modernise the Royal Navy's HF broadcast capabilities.

Airports boost

UK regional airports are to benefit from a move to liberalise international access to them which removes the need for prior international aviation negotiations, Aviation Minister Glenda Jackson has announced. Airlines from around 100 countries with which the UK has bilateral air service agreements are to be offered open access to all of the UK's airports, except Heathrow and Gatwick, provided UK airlines are also allowed to operate on the same routes, Jackson said, in response to a parliamentary question.

News Analysis: As Japan prays its economic plans will work, rumours fly over China's next move

Turmoil reigns in Asia once more

BY STEPHEN VINES
in Taipei

AN AWESOME combination of fear and hope about Asia's two regional superpowers sent Asian market-makers into a bearish trading frenzy yesterday.

The hope is that the Japanese government's economic stimulus plans will work and the Chinese government will resist the temptation to devalue the yuan ren minbi. The fear is that this precisely opposite will happen.

Although the Chinese government still denies that it has any intention to devalue, and the Japanese government insists that it is finally grasping the nettle of fiscal reform and is prepared to stump up enough public money to refloat the economy, big investors are resolutely sceptical.

This scepticism sent Hong Kong's blue-chip Hang Seng Index tumbling 4.9 per cent yesterday to its lowest point in more than three years. Closing at 7,979 points, the index has lost more than half its value since last summer's high.

In Taiwan, the country in the region whose economy has been hit least badly by the Asian financial crisis, the stock market fell more than 3 per cent to a seven-year low and the New Taiwan dollar tumbled to its lowest level since March 1987.

The Thai stockmarket, no slouch when it comes to testing new lows, plunged more than 5 per cent to hit a 10-year low. Piling on the agony the credit-rating agency Standard and Pears issued a warning that some 35 per cent of all Thai bank loans were problematic.

Elsewhere in the region, stocks and currencies marched in step in a downwards direction as the Japanese yen proved that Tuesday's modest recovery was no more than an aberration when it headed back towards an exchange rate of 141 yen to the US dollar.

It is hard to be sure what spurred the carnage. The most common explanation is that this bout of contagion spread from Hong Kong, where there was alarm about a statement by Dai Xianglong, China's central bank governor. He is reported to have told a private meeting that "the depreciation of the Japanese yen is having a very negative impact on Chinese imports and exports and the utilisation of foreign capital".

Combined with figures showing exports slowing to a level of



Small investors from failed local securities firms scuffle with police as they protest outside the Hong Kong Stock Exchange yesterday.
Larry Chan/Reuters

porate profits were down 25 per cent while investment had declined 5.8 per cent and sales were off 6.8 per cent.

"It seems that fiscal 1997/98 was the worst for companies and that they could expect some pick up in 1998/99," said Mamoru Yamazaki, a senior economist at Paribas Capital Markets in Tokyo. "But it's questionable whether this will happen."

Speaking in Taipei yesterday, Premier Vincent Siew said that he thought the worst was over for most South-East Asian countries. But he added: "The situation in Japan is unclear. I fear it will take one or two years to improve."

Mr Siew was being quite restrained. Some analysts believe that the yen is heading down to as low as 180 yen to the US dollar and that the major stumbling block of weak domestic consumption cannot be shifted by current government policies.

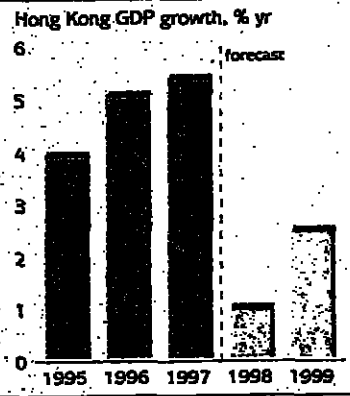
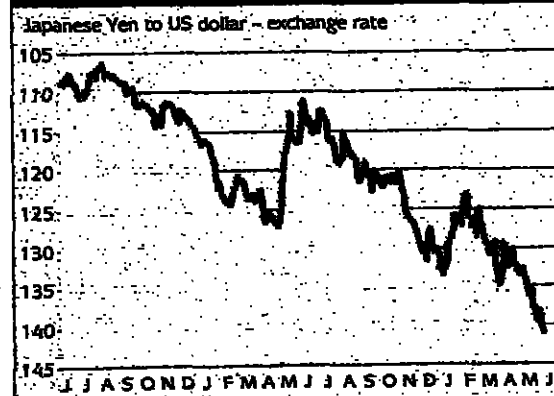
This means that Japan, traditionally the main engine of Asian economic growth, is incapable of reviving other troubled Asian economies.

The most optimistic assessment yesterday came from Marcel Souza, of INVECO Asset Management in Hong Kong, who said: "If policy measures being taken in Japan at the moment deliver economic growth 12 months down the road, we would be looking at a recovery in Asia." But this is hardly an affirmation of confidence, more like a timid prediction of things being not quite as black as they are painted.

The underlying fear in East Asia is that things will keep getting worse, not only because China and Japan can do little to help their neighbours, and may even damage them, but because the Asian economies are all awash with seriously devalued assets. And with falling creditability, many Asian governments are hardly in a position to lead their countries out of the crisis. Big-league investors are in no mood to help them out.

Leading article.
Review, page 3

THE FALLING YEN'S IMPACT



CHANGE SINCE START OF ASIA CRISIS

Market	Current	July 1997	% move
Indonesia	408.08	731.00	-44.2
Malaysia	489.86	1,230.00	-60.2
Philippines	1,917.87	2,815.00	-31.9
Singapore	1,067.81	1,981.00	-46.1
Thailand	292.10	569.00	-48.7
Japan	15,339.26	20,175.52	-23.97
Hong Kong	7,979.37	15,196.79	-47.49

12 per cent growth in the first four months of the year from 21 per cent last year, and others showing output expanding only 7.9 per cent in the first five months of the year, well below the 10.5 per cent target, this led investors to conclude that the Chinese leadership was ready to break its pledge to maintain the value of its currency.

This, in turn, focused attention on the possibility of a break in the Hong Kong dollar peg

with the US dollar, which would be hard to sustain in the face of a Chinese devaluation. It only needed a hint of this kind to send Hong Kong interest rates soaring. Overnight, interbank rates reached up to 8 per cent compared with Tuesday's close at 6 per cent.

The stock market has no hope of staying firm in the face of interest-rate movements of this order, although they were far less alarming than the tre-

ble digit overnight rates seen at the end of last year when the Hong Kong dollar was under speculative attack.

China, meanwhile, is attempting a strategy of refloating the domestic economy to avoid devaluation. Interest rates have been lowered and banks' borrowing ratios relaxed.

But with rising levels of unemployment, the financial sector in a shambolic state and the government unable to come to

grips with reform of the lumbering state-owned industries, domestic demand-led refloating is hardly an easy option.

The suspicion is that it simply will not work. Nevertheless, yesterday both Hong Kong and Chinese leaders rushed to deny rumours that a weak yen will prompt China to devalue.

Some analysts accept these denials. "The cheaper yen will not take away the market from Chinese exporters," said Chi

Lo, from the Hong Kong Bank China Service.

But this is not a majority view. As Alex Tang, research director at Core Pacific-Yamachi International in Hong Kong put it: "Fund managers are not buying the story."

Nor are they buying the story of an impending Japanese economic recovery. A finance ministry survey released in Tokyo yesterday showed that in the first quarter of the year cor-

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

THE AMERICAN economy is still enjoying a remarkable period of strong growth and low inflation, Alan Greenspan said yesterday. His testimony seemed to point to no early increase in US interest rates.

But the Chairman of the Federal Reserve warned that stock prices and market interest rates were getting out of line with reality, and hinted that the Fed had moved closer to tight-

ening monetary policy. Wall Street dipped initially on his words, then recovered with the Dow Jones Industrial Average standing 9.96 higher at noon at 9059.88.

In a generally favourable overview of the US economy before Congress, the world's most powerful central banker expressed his amazement that the economy was performing so well. "The current economic performance, with its combination of strong growth and low inflation, is as impressive as any

I have witnessed in my near half-century of daily observation of the American economy," he said. "A major technological transformation of the economy was under way," he said.

"Our economy is still enjoying a virtuous circle," he said. Rising productivity combined with moderate wage increases meant that declining unemployment posed little inflationary threat; improving output, low interest rates and inflation generated an optimistic corporate output and increases in

stock prices; and these in turn fed back into higher asset prices and increasing domestic demand.

"The inflation rate moved down further in the first quarter, even as the economy strengthened," he noted. The economic crisis in Asia had affected the economy in the first quarter, with exports declining. But domestic expansion continued to be strong.

However, Mr Greenspan also warned that the Fed would tighten monetary policy in the

future if it saw any signs that inflationary pressures were picking up. "Monetary policy might need to tighten if demand were to continue to exhibit few signs of abating noticeably, thereby threatening to place still further strains on our labour market," he said. And he also pinpointed the stock market and lending as key targets. Expectations, he said, had "driven stock prices sharply higher and credit spreads lower, perhaps to levels that will be difficult to sustain unless economic con-

ditions remain exceptionally favourable - more so than might be anticipated from historical relationships."

It is traditionally the Fed's job to take the punch bowl away just as the party starts. But he gave no reason to think this point was imminent. "We at the Federal Reserve, recognising the powerful forces of productivity growth and global restraint on inflation, have not perceived to date the need to tighten policy, beyond what has occurred through infla-

tion's upward pressure on the real federal funds rate and the modest increase in the nominal rate that was initiated in March of 1997."

Foreign investment in the US fell last year for the first time in five years. The world spent \$70.3 billion to buy US companies or establish new companies, down from nearly \$80 billion in 1996. The reason was mainly the economic weakness of Japan, though the strength of the dollar contributed, the Commerce Department said.

Thursday 11 June 1998

هَذَا مِنْ الْأَصْلِ

What keeps the hawks and doves flitting about

THE FURORE about the decision last week by the Bank of England to raise the base rate to 5.5 per cent has been a quarter-point interest rate rise on an unsuspecting nation can only intensify after the revelation in the newly published minutes of the May meeting that the majority in favour of no move had increased since April - and, moreover, that one member had voted for a cut.

For the simple-minded folk in the City and elsewhere trying to understand how monetary policy is operating in the new regime, it is confusing enough. For the constituency of manufacturers, unions and politicians who think the cost of borrowing and the pound have been too high for too long, it almost beggars belief. How can policy be so "finely balanced", in the Bank's phrase, that members of the MPC can hop from the doves' perch to the hawks' perch, or vice versa, and back again within the space of a month or two?

The Bank's analysis of the forces it needs to respond to in order to keep inflation on target over the medium term has actually been far more stable than the MPC's voting pattern. For more than a year the quarterly Inflation Report has forecast that inflation will remain very close to its target in the short-term but will be on a firm upward path by late 1999 - the delayed but inevitable response to Kenneth Clarke's failure to increase the cost of borrowing as the economy started its mini-boom before the general election.

As soon as Gordon Brown stepped into his new office in May 1997 he took the necessary action, raising rates himself then handing over the reins to the new MPC, which opted for another four increases between then and November. It is since then that the committee has become increasingly divided over whether it needed to do more to meet the inflation target. There are three key ingredients in the mix of evidence that has had the committee



DIANE COYLE

It is easy to see the near impossibility of combining all the arguments in a single and consistent interest rate decision

members veering from one direction to another since the new year. One is the weakness in manufacturing and the export sector of the economy as a result of the strong pound, reinforced by tentative signs of a slowdown in the consumer

and service sectors. Manufacturing is stagnant and business surveys suggest it will weaken further. Meanwhile some bits of the service economy - especially retailing - are also cooling off.

The second issue is the continuing strength of the pound which, confusingly, cuts both ways. The longer it stays strong, the bigger the downturn in the export-oriented part of the economy is likely to be. On the other hand, over-valued exchange rates typically fall sharply at some point, bringing in their wake inflationary pressures via higher import prices.

The third element is the tight labour market. Compared to past business cycles, the pick-up in earnings has been subdued. Even so, for the South-east generally, certain types of skill like computer programming or bricklaying, there is essentially full employment. Private sector wage inflation has started to reflect this, but there is no clear consensus as to whether it will continue on its

steep upward trend, or reverse it if the recent rises turn out to reflect one-off bonuses rather than an underlying increase.

The evidence on these separate elements has not really changed very much since the New Year. Just as it does around the turning point of every cycle, the economy has generated a lot of mixed evidence. Those representing particular groups, such as exporters or northern engineering workers, see the signs closest to home most clearly, and find it impossible to understand why the MPC fat cats dosed in the splendour of Threadneedle Street do not see the world their way. (Curiously enough, the constituency arguing the case for higher interest rates this year has been neither as large nor as vocal, but those of us who belong to it are almost certainly all southerners having to pay more for our cappuccinos and home improvements.)

Yet, step outside a single world-view, as the MPC's members are supposed to do, and it is easy to see the near-impossibility of combining all the arguments in a single and consistent decision with utter confidence. Anybody who claims to be completely sure about the right policy step at the moment is a menace.

There are two long-term problems in setting interest rates that go deeper than the immediate, if pressing, question about what is needed at this stage of the cycle to keep inflation on target. The Bank's job is to get the level of rates that will keep the measured inflation rate, an economy-wide average, around 2.5 per cent. But this task glosses over the question as to how a single interest rate can meet the needs of the separate parts of a structurally divided economy.

The answer, of course, is that it can't. But that implies a need for both politicians and MPC members to be clear in their own minds about how they weigh the importance of the boom-prone and bust-

prone parts. How much does each contribute to jobs, current output and potential future growth? If traditional low-value manufacturing is in decline, what will replace it and how is that decline to be managed? These questions are almost never made explicit in the debate.

The second long-term point is that the Bank of England's decisions about short-term interest rates have an unpredictable and possibly small impact on the real long-term interest rates which actually determine economic activity and prosperity. A timely new paper from Merrill Lynch, the investment bank, shows that while nominal long-term rates, measured by the yield on government bonds, have varied enormously since 1950, and remain much higher than the long-run historical average, the real, inflation-adjusted yield has always tended to return to around 3 per cent - irrespective of both the inflation rate and the level of government debt.

The paper finds that the one thing that has a big impact on real yields is demography via the quantity of private saving as the average age of the population changes. Already, there are more retired people in Europe than ever before, and this is going to increase. Relative to the number of workers in future, the amount of capital will be high - the relative abundance of capital compared to labour across the developed economies is likely to make capital cheaper and therefore interest rates lower. The second chart shows Merrill Lynch's forecast for the likely path of the real interest rates in the UK.

The moral is that the Bank of England can influence the amount by which interest rates deviate from such long-run trends, and how well they do this will determine their success in meeting the inflation target - and the level of unemployment in the meantime. What they can not do is alter the structure of the economy against which they have to set rates.



Graham Hawker, Hyder chief executive, plans to multiply Wales's clean beaches

Hyder reviews policy on utilities dividends

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

HYDER, THE Welsh electricity, water and gas supplier, is reviewing its dividend policy because of the "considerable uncertainties" created by the impending regulatory price reviews.

The group, which was formed from the merger of Welsh Water and South Wales Electricity, stressed that it was not preparing to cut the payout. But Graham Hawker, Hyder's chief executive, said: "There is a high degree of uncertainty around the utilities at the moment and anyone who stands up and makes predictions about dividend policy is being courageous."

The company is facing a review of water charges from

2000 which is likely to involve a big one-off price cut in the first year. Swalec also faces price reviews in its distribution business - the main profit earner - and supply arm from 2000.

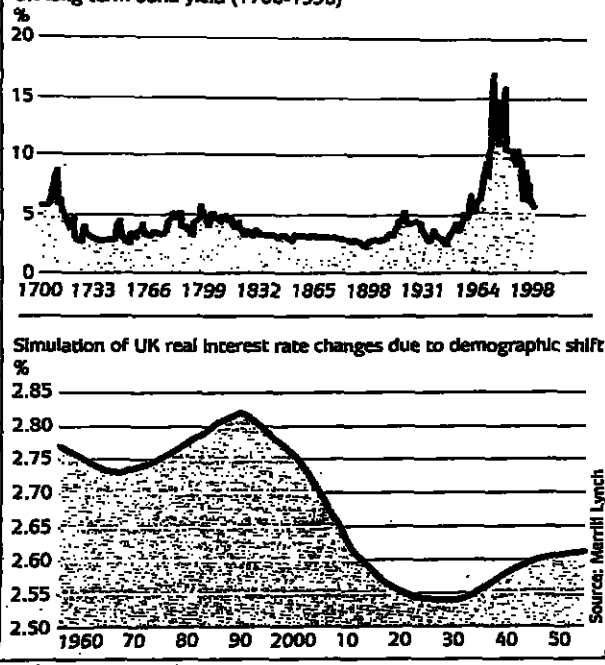
In an attempt to reduce its exposure to tighter regulatory controls, the group is building up non-regulated businesses. Last year, non-regulated profits reached £48m - 16 per cent of group profit before interest. Hyder Services, the merged billing arms of Welsh Water and Swalec, increased profits to £22m helped by annualised cost savings of £15m while the profit contribution from its £145m investment portfolio in projects ranging from a Melbourne toll road to Docklands Light Railway more than doubled to £12.6m. The improvement helped

offset £20m of charges related to gas marketing and the cost of preparing for domestic power competition and tackling the millennium bug. Hyder has so far signed up 400,000 gas customers, including 235,000 within its franchise area, or 30 per cent of the market.

Mr Hawker added that 25 per cent of its one million customers now took all three services - gas, water and electricity. "The multi-utility idea is working and the evidence is there both in terms of efficiency and our ability to add revenues to the top line."

Mr Hawker said that 15 of Britain's Blue Flag beaches - one-third of the total - were in Wales and that Hyder's aim was to raise the number to 50 by the start of the next millennium.

INTEREST RATES-PAST AND FUTURE



'Board sacked me,' claims biotechnology group founder

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

LEN TRAVERS, founder of the arts biotechnology group, aimed yesterday that he was effect sacked by the company on Monday and had not resigned as the board had aimed.

The 42-year-old Anglo-Australian entrepreneur claimed he was invited to resign as chairman and chief executive without warning at 11am on Monday. Having said he would not to consult his lawyers at he was then telephoned at offices of Fox Williams, his legal advisers, that afternoon to tell that a statement was being issued announcing his resignation. "A few minutes later the company secretary told that the press release had been issued and it



Glen Travers: Claims he was invited to resign

could not be withdrawn," said Mark Watson, employment law partner at Fox Williams.

Though Mr Travers remains a director of the company, it is understood he is not seeking reinstatement. He left the company party due to investor concern about

his combined role as chairman and chief executive. There were also concerns about slow progress in signing licensing deals to develop the company's main product, Macrotin, a treatment for osteoporosis.

On Monday, Cortes announced that Lord Patten, the former governor of Hong Kong, was moving up to become chairman and Dr Michael Flynn would become acting chief executive.

Cortes yesterday said it had no further comment to make. A spokesman for Mr Travers said he had issued his statement to clarify the events leading to his departure. "Having built this company all by himself, it's a bit of a shock when you have your baby taken away without any notice." His statement included some bizarre additions. As well as details of the

company's performance and Mr Travers' role in building it up, it attempted to dispel allegations of an extravagant lifestyle. These have included use of the company's £200,000 private helicopter.

The statement says the "helicopter service" was provided following the company's decision to move its head office to North Wales in an attempt to cut costs. Several of the management team then used it to commute from their London homes to Deeside. The statement says that of the 119 helicopter journeys conducted between September 1997 to July this year, 16.8 per cent of them were undertaken by Mr Travers compared to 25.2 per cent by Martin Preuve, chief operating officer and 14.3 per cent by the former finance director.

Ryanair to set up Continental base

BY RANDEEP RAMESH
Airport Correspondent

RYANAIR, THE no-frills airline, to set up a base on the Continent in order to expand its growing network.

The carrier, which yesterday announced an "adjusted" profit of £30.2m, said it was in talks to set up a base in the north of France.

"Our next move is to establish a third base to complement Dublin and Stansted," said Richard Miller, Ryanair's director of finance.

Ryanair has an ambitious expansion programme in place. Passenger numbers are up 30 per cent to 4 million and the airline has placed a £2m order for up to 45 Boeing 737s.

Executives are also considering a listing on the London market. The Ryan family, which has a 33 per cent stake, is likely to sell up to £50m worth of shares, reducing its holding to 28 per cent, and the airline plans to create another £50m of new shares to trade.

The carrier, whose head-

quarters are in Dublin, is looking to steal a march over its rivals, including EasyJet and British Airways.

"We are looking to launch another five or six routes from Stansted. We are the only low-cost carrier making a healthy profit," said Mr Miller.

Ryanair claims its main competitors are making big losses. Mr Miller said: "By next year we will have 5 million passengers. British Midland has about 6 million - we should catch them in a couple of years."

Meanwhile, Go, British Airways' low-cost carrier, announced a service to Lisbon yesterday - its fourth destination to be launched since the airline took off last month. The cheapest seats will be £100.

Go also said it would cut its fare from Rome to £100 - seven days after raising it to £120. "We have sold more than 56,000 seats at £100 since the start of April, so the demand is there," said Barbara Cassani, Go's chief executive.

PIA fines pension advisers £400,000

THE PERSONAL Investment Authority yesterday fined two independent financial advisers a total of £400,000, largely for failures relating to the pension mis-selling review.

The financial watchdog said that the advisers, Investment Options and Investment Options, both part of the Manchester-based Financial Group, had failed to

take all reasonable steps and devote adequate resources to carrying out the review into wrongly-sold pensions. They were also fined for failures in their internal organisation of their general investment business.

The two companies were also ordered to pay a total of £37,300 in costs. The PIA's fines result from its ongoing monitoring of

progress on the pensions review which was set up to ensure compensation was paid to people who were wrongly advised to opt out of occupational pensions in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

In the case of Financial Options and Investment Options, £250,000 of the fine relates to the pensions review, because they

failed to provide accurate and adequate information to their representatives and verify information they received from them, the PIA said in a statement.

The remaining £150,000 was imposed for imposed for failures "in the internal organisation of general investment business," the PIA said.

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RISES | **FALLS**

15/10/1967

SmithKline stories won't go away

THE STOCK market refuses to accept that the £110bn drugs merger between Glaxo Wellcome and SmithKline Beecham is dead and buried.

Despite the deal's acrimonious breakdown there is still support for the theory that Glaxo will find a way of absorbing SB, which has been the most heavily traded share in recent days. Share put volume at just over 19 million yesterday, making an impressive near-60 million this week. The shares, up a further 15p to 715p, were 688.5p when trading started on Monday.

SB's intriguing display has also aroused stories that it could be seeking out another partner. Zeneca, up 5p to 2,669p, is one name in the frame. But a new Glaxo initiative is the market's favourite guess. The drugs giant is in urgent need of a major deal to strengthen its portfolio.

City institutions were horrified when the Glaxo/SB talks collapsed, seemingly on management differences. There was also the not insignificant influence of the huge fees the City had to forgo when the merger foundered.

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

Without doubt the consolidation of the drugs industry is continuing. The attempt by Sweden's Astra to buy full control of a joint venture with the US Merck group is merely the latest recorded move.

Switzerland's Roche is expected soon to flex its corporate muscles and the other drug leaders realise they must grow or be taken over.

Glaxo remained firm, up 21p to 1,784p, still a long way from the 1,985p reached when the earlier SB deal seemed set to succeed. SB touched 845p in those heady days. The rest of the market endured

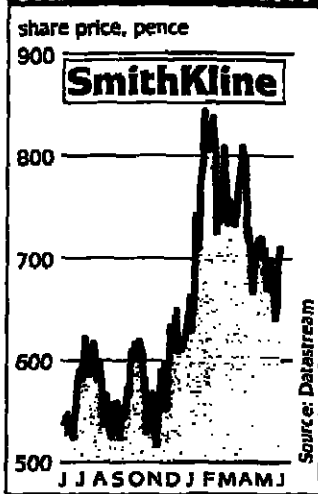
a downbeat season with Footsie falling 32.4 points to 5,587.4. At one time it was off 75. The renewed weakness in Far Eastern markets did much of the early damage. The Hong Kong slide caused concern with HSBC tumbling 72p to 1,510p and Standard Chartered 20.5p to 693.5p. Rolls-Royce was lowered 11.75p to 277.25p. A cautious, although neutral, speech by US banking chief Alan Greenspan helped reduce the Asian woes. There had been fears he would hit out at Wall Street's exuberance and advocate higher interest rates.

Mid and small cap shares failed to buck the trend. The mid cap index lost 28.7 to 5,936.9 and the small cap 5.7 to 2,781.4.

The Footsie changes were upset by a late run by Nycomed-Amersham. The health group at one time seemed destined for relegation to the mid cap index but a late run, possibly inspired by the capital reorganisation which came into effect yesterday, swung the balance. The shares, in their new slimline form, slipped 6.25p to 396p.

So Next, the retailer, continuing to feel the impact of its shock prof-

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



it warning, and building materials group Wolsley, hit by the strong pound, were dumped from Footsie with Stagecoach, the transport group, and WPP, once on the brink of disaster, replacing them. Daily Mail & General Trust, which just failed to squeeze into the blue chip index, fell 190p to 2,860p. Thomson Travel, Computacenter,

Seton Scholl Healthcare, Euro-tunnel and Corporate Services were promoted to the mid cap index, where the casualties included Carpetright and British Biotech.

Brillio, after its traumatic time on Tuesday, produced a token rally, up 2.75p to 42.25p. Cortec, the drugs group, fell 4.5p to 115p as former chief executive Glen Travers denied he had resigned but had, he said, been sacked.

British Petroleum softened 2.5p to 906p. It is taking analysts to see its Alaskan operations next week and there are hopes the meetings will prompt reserve estimates to be upgraded.

Ladbrokes continued to score from the hotel excitement, gaining a further 5p to 360p. This time Hotels, where bid interest has been expressed, gained a further 12.5p to 250p. British Airways, on reports it intends to fly away from its proposed deal with American Airlines if the European Commission is too tough, climbed 10.5p to 685.5p.

Land Securities, the nation's biggest property group, edged ahead 4p to 968p. Stockbroker Walker Crips Weddle Beck rates the

shares, which stand "at a substantial discount to prospective NAV and we consider this disparity to present a secure buying opportunity".

MFI, up 5p to 87p, and Dixons, unchanged at 570p, were put on the buy list by CSFB, and Diageo fell 11p to 763p as Williams de Broe said switch into Allied Domecq, unchanged at 598p.

Brake Brothers, the convenience food distributors, jumped 50p to 1,065p on a tip sheet comment: Staveley Industries, the engineering and salt group where Guinness Peat has built a stake and made threatening noises, put on 8.5p to 119p. New management has been drafted in and a revamp is underway. But new chief executive Chris Woodward, former chief executive of Rolls-Royce Motors, is not planning many disposals. The loss was £74.1m against a £16.6m profit.

Card Clear settled just 0.5p lower at 62p, after touching 59p, following Tuesday's sudden departure of two directors.

Chieftain, the insulation and fireproofing group, tumbled 44p to 68.5p after talking about a trading slowdown.

HOWLE, an engineering group, jumped 5p to a 38p peak, after a sharp profit advance - and the arrival of David Abell, former head of the Suter conglomerate. Mr Abell runs Thomas Jourdan, famed for its Crosby trouser presses. Since he and associates moved in he has been threatening action and a 22.28 per cent stake in Howle is the first significant move. The shares were mainly acquired from Strand Associates which accepted 9.5 per cent of Jourdan in exchange. Jourdan, expected to bid for full control, firmed to 69.5p.

QUEENSBOROUGH, the leisure group, held at 24p. David Kirch's Channel Hotels & Properties has increased its stake to 16.7 per cent.

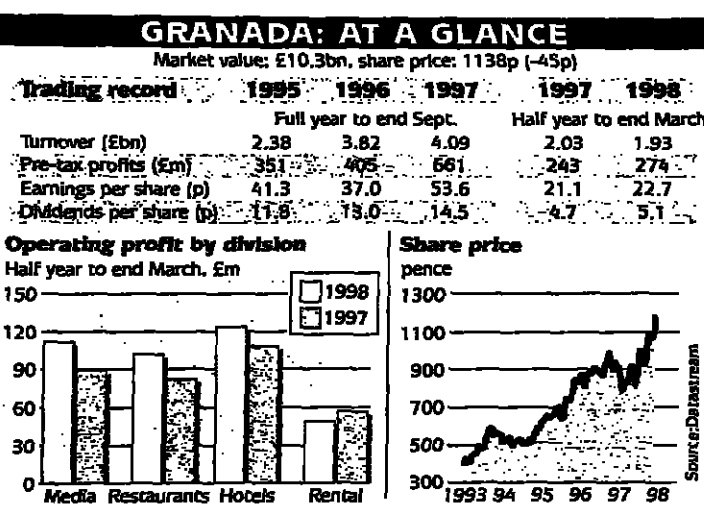
Queensborough's creator and biggest shareholder is Kevin Leech of ML Laboratories.

YET ANOTHER profit warning from Future Integrated Telephony left the shares 4p off at a 30p low. The company expects a loss of up to £1.3m.

Clouds appear on Granada's horizon

INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY PETER THAL LARSEN



IT'S BEEN a while since Granada, that bustling hub of corporate activity, reported a set of figures that could be compared with those of the previous period. But yesterday's interim results, which showed pre-tax profits up 13 per cent to £274m on turnover up 12 per cent to £1.5bn, were the least distorted that the media to hotels conglomerate has reported for a while.

Everything seems to be going Granada's way. Media profits were up by more than a quarter, driven by rising TV advertising spending and the benefits of fully integrating Yorkshire-Tyne Tees. Investment in Little Chef and refurbishment of the Fortis Travelodge also paid off with a 25 per cent profit hike. Hotels advanced 15 per cent while even the 15 per cent drop in Rentals was less severe than expected.

In the short term, these trends should continue. But Granada faces a few long-term challenges. British Digital Broadcasting, its television joint venture with Carlton, is going to slump up £200m of Granada's cash while the uncertain payback is at least three years away.

There are also question marks over the hotel cycle, which is nearing its peak, and growth potential in the roadside businesses in the face of the government's crackdown on cars.

Granada chairman Gerry Robinson could always pull another deal out of the hat. But he does not seem to have any major tricks up his sleeve. A mooted alliance with hotel chains in the US or Asia will hardly set pulses racing. Demerging the media side is off the agenda for now. And an acquisition in contract catering - the favoured area for expansion - would have to overcome the high price attached to most targets and Granada's skimpy interest cover.

So what kind of rating does Granada deserve? Paribas has pencilled in profits of £734m, putting the shares, which slipped 45p to 1138p yesterday, on a forward p/e ratio of about 20. In line with the market but, for now, high enough.

Meyer gets a better balance

IT HAS been a busy few months for Meyer. Acquiring the Harrods chain of builders' merchants last December and selling off the software and

panelling business has already shifted the balance of his business.

In the year to March turnover increased by 10 per cent to £1.25bn and pre-tax profits, before exceptional charges, rose by 20 per cent to £53.4m. The Jewson builders' merchants accounted for over half the turnover and almost three-quarters of operating profits against 40 per cent and 46 per cent respectively the previous year.

A four-month contribution from Harrocs added £10m to operating profits and helped lift Jewson's margins from 5 per cent to 7 per cent, doubling operating profits from the builders' merchants business to £41m.

The acquisition also created an exceptional charge of £23m, while selling the timber business added a further £11m of exceptional. Interest charges tripled to almost £8m and a combination of falling software prices and the strong pound reduced operating profits by another £8m.

This year margins the costs of integrating and rebranding Harrocs will hold back margins. However, Meyer's chief executive Alan Peterson expects the deal to yield £10m worth of savings this year, rising to £20m in the future. Margins should reach 8 per cent by 2000 if the housing market continues to grow.

Nevertheless, brokers yesterday scaled back profit forecasts for the current year from £78m to £73m. The shares have risen strongly this year but fell 6p to 424p yesterday. At 14 times forecast earnings they look high enough.

Staveley still has a lot to do

IT HAS been a grim year for investors in Staveley Industries, the troubled engineering and minerals group. After a profits warning in March which led to angry noises from 12 per cent shareholder Guinness Peat and the departure of chief executive Roy Hitchens, the shares slumped from almost 200p to 118p.

There was a small 8.5p jump in the shares to 119p yesterday as the City got to meet new chief executive Chris Woodmark for the first time since he joined from Rolls-Royce Motors. After the year's £74m loss he is undertaking a strategic review but insists no further disposals are planned following the £44m sale of Weigh-Trox and Cronos Richardson.

He is concentrating on cost-cutting and improving the appalling performance of Staveley's businesses. Only the salt business makes decent money and profits there collapsed last year. The other three divisions contributed just £10m, 0.002 between them last year on sales of £250m. The integrative services division made a loss. Mr Woodmark plans to cut costs, flatten the management structure, merge branches and concentrate on more profitable contracts. But much still needs to be done.

On Deutsche Kleinwort Benson's current year forecast of £16.5m the shares trade on a lowly forward p/e ratio of 11. The downside now seems limited so the shares may be worth a punt.

IN BRIEF

Freepages in home shopping link-up

FREEPAGES, THE telephone and online directory service, yesterday linked up with Candent, the US marketing group, to offer a cheap home shopping service. Under the terms of the deal callers to Freepages' Scoot service will be able to join Candent's UK service.

The club, which charges an annual subscription fee of £39, allows its members to buy electrical goods and white goods at huge discounts to retail prices. Freepages will take a small cut of every item its users buy through Candent.

Vibroplant in profit

VIBROPLANT, THE specialist plant hire group, returned to profit in the year to 31 March. Turnover rose by a third to £49m and profits reached £1.46m, plus an exceptional write-back of £730,000 from previous provisions on the disposal of the US business.

The industrial services, safety services and small tools divisions increased profits and the construction services division reduced its losses. The current outlook is good, chairman Jeremy Pilkington said yesterday.

Tring rescued

TRING INTERNATIONAL, the loss-making producer of music, video and CD Roms whose shares were suspended at 6.5p last month, has avoided insolvency proceedings by accepting a stop-gap loan of undisclosed size from the Levinson family trust, which owns 12.9 per cent of the company.

The Levinson family helped vote down the board's own refinancing proposals last month but the board is now discussing a reverse takeover of a similar business to be financed by a rights issue.

Dawson downturn

DAWSON HOLDINGS, the A-listed group which is seeking admission to the full market next week, yesterday blamed the strength of sterling and mounting product development costs for a marginal downturn in first-half profits.

Pre-tax profits before exceptional items eased to £14.4m from £14.5m a year earlier, despite a continued strong performance from the news wholesale unit Surridge Dawson.

The World Cup winners and losers

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS
BY JOHN WILLCOCK

Will our hero's work survive such a savage assault? Watch this space...

THE TREASURY has appointed Carol Sergeant as a member of the Building Societies Commission (BSC) and Martin Roberts as a member of the Friendly Societies Commission. Ms Sergeant is director of banks and building societies at the Financial Services Authority (FSA) and Mr Roberts will soon join her there from the Treasury, where he is currently head of the insurance directorate.

Helen Liddell, economic secretary to the Treasury, says the duo will help to smooth the transition of the commissions' functions to the FSA.

LORD STERLING'S Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company has announced two additions to its board with immediate effect: Michael Gradon, currently legal director and company secretary, becomes an executive director, and Sir John Collins joins as a non-executive director. Sir John Collins is group chief executive of Vestey Group, and non-executive chairman of National Power and Cantab Pharmaceuticals.

LOREAL, THE French hair care products company, is sponsoring the Junior Common Room (JCR) at Worcester College, Oxford, to the tune of £2,000.

Just why a beauty products company should be handing money over to a bunch of unwashed students becomes clearer when I tell you that the sponsorship coincides with the promotion of Lyndsey Owen Jones, a former student at Worcester and confirmed Welshman, to chief executive of the company in Paris.

The students hope the £2,000 will be become a regular, annual sponsorship. Whether the money will go on shampoo for their greasy locks or beer for their insatiable thirsts remains unclear.

To add insult to injury, the knife will be wielded in the review pages of the *Guardian* itself this Saturday, by Blair mouthpiece Anthony Giddens, an academic from the London School of Economics.

COMPANY RESULTS						
Company	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	
Nasdaq	2,540m (18.2m)	2,540m (1.83m)	10.99p (8.40p)	7.0p (6.1p)		07.08.98
AMEC	1,260m (14.7m)	1,436m (16.1m)	15.9p (19.3p)	2.2p (2.0p)		17.07.98
Dea Travel (P)	20.25m (13.2m)	0.510m (4.50m)	51.75p (30.05p)	19.3p (18.0p)		24.07.98
Domestic Group (P)	50.53m (56.7m)	-3.096m (1.502m)	-19.09p (9.15p)	0.0p (0.2p)		n/a
Borgs (P)	124.95m (105.01m)	20.40m (17.7m)	24.3p (21.2p)	9.15p (8.05p)		30.07.98
Stena (P)	1.65m (2.00m)	265.00m (298.1m)	1.14p (1.44p)	5.14p (4.55p)		28.05.98
Ranbaxy (P)	494.3m (506.9p)	98.2m (84.07m)	13.25p (12.26p)	2.5p (2.75p)		n/a
Household (P)	8.65m (8.76m)	0.585m (0.67m)	1.30p (1.03p)	0.3p (1)		17.08.98
Hydrex (P)	1.180m (1.14m)	168.5m (208.2m)	-80.8p (118.5p)	50.4p (43.9p)		08.04.98
Industries (P)	1.49m (1.88m)	-0.154m (-1.78m)	-49.7p (59.7p)			n/a
Leads Group (P)	37.32m (41.55m)	3.5m (3.60m)	8.6p (8.7p)	2.4p (2.43p)		13.07.98
South Africa (P)	1.029m (957.1m)	213.1m (205.4m)	50.2p (42.35p)	19.41p (17.84p)		11.06.98
Starkey (P)	353.5m (359.8m)	-74.71m (10.0m)	-21.5p (2.0p)	8.5p (8.0p)		11.08.98
Shua Thelby (P)	65.0m (65.65m)	2.7m (2.01m)	1.35p (1.02p)	6.4p (5.1p)		n/a

AMC - Food, (P) - Interim, (M) - Main, (A) - FY98, (P) - FY99, (P) - FY00, (P) - FY01, (P) - FY02, (P) - FY03, (P) - FY04, (P) - FY05, (P) - FY06, (P) - FY07, (P) - FY08, (P) - FY09, (P) - FY10, (P) - FY11, (P) - FY12, (P) - FY13, (P) - FY14, (P) - FY15, (P) - FY16, (P) - FY17, (P) - FY18, (P) - FY19, (P) - FY20, (P) - FY21, (P) - FY22, (P) - FY23, (P) - FY24, (P) - FY25, (P) - FY26, (P) - FY27, (P) - FY28, (P) - FY29, (P) - FY30, (P) - FY31, (P) - FY32, (P) - FY33, (P) - FY34, (P) - FY35, (P) - FY36, (P) - FY37, (P) - FY38, (P) - FY39, (P) - FY40, (P) - FY41, (P) - FY42, (P) - FY43, (P) - FY44, (P) - FY45, (P) - FY46, (P) - FY47, (P) - FY48, (P) - FY49, (P) - FY50, (P) - FY51, (P) - FY52, (P) - FY53, (P) - FY54, (P) - FY55, (P) - FY56, (P) - FY57, (P) - FY58, (P) - FY59, (P) - FY60, (P) - FY61, (P) - FY62, (P) - FY63, (P) - FY64, (P) - FY65, (P) - FY66, (P) - FY67, (P) - FY68, (P) - FY69, (P) - FY70, (P) - FY71, (P) - FY72, (P) - FY73, (P) - FY74, (P) - FY75, (P) - FY76, (P) - FY77, (P) - 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Foreign Exchange Rates				
Country	Sterling	Spot	1 month	3 months
USA	100.00	2.779	2.782	2.785
UK	100.00	2.779	2.782	2.785
Australia	100.00	2.050	2.050	2.050
Canada	100.00	2.050	2.050	2.050
France	100.00	2.050	2.050	2.050
Germany	100.00	2.050	2.050	2.050
Italy	100.00	2.050	2.050	2.050
Japan	100.00	2.050	2.050	2.050
South Africa	100.00	2.050	2.050	2.050
Spain	100.00	2.050	2.050	2.050
Sweden	100.00	2.050	2.050	2.050
Switzerland	100.00	2.050	2.050	2.050
US	100.00	2.050	2.050	2.050

Interest Rates				
Country	3 month	1 year	2 year	5 year
UK	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
USA	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Germany	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
France	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Italy	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Japan	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
South Africa	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Spain	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Sweden	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Switzerland	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
US	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%

Liffe Futures				
Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Open
Long GB	1087	1088	1085	1087
Long US	1087	1088	1085	1087
Long Euro	1087	1088	1085	1087
Long Japan	1087	1088	1085	1087
Long South Africa	1087	1088	1085	1087
Long Spain	1087	1088	1085	1087
Long Sweden	1087	1088	1085	1087
Long Switzerland	1087	1088	1085	1087
Long US	1087	1088	1085	1087
Long UK	1087	1088	1085	1087
Long EU	1087	1088	1085	1087
Long Asia	1087	1088	1085	1087
Long Oceania	1087	1088	1085	1087
Long Africa	1087	1088	1085	1087
Long Latin America	1087	1088	1085	1087
Long Middle East	1087	1088	1085	1087
Long Europe	1087	1088	1085	1087
Long Asia	1087	1088	1085	1087
Long Oceania	1087	1088	1085	1087
Long Africa	1087	1088	1085	1087
Long Latin America	1087	1088	1085	1087
Long Middle East	1087	1088	1085	1087

Liffe FTSE 100 Index Option				
Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Open
Long GB	1087	1088	1085	1087
Long US	1087	1088	1085	1087
Long Euro	1087	1088	1085	1087
Long Japan	1087	1088	1085	1087
Long South Africa	1087	1088	1085	1087
Long Spain	1087	1088	1085	1087
Long Sweden	1087	1088	1085	1087
Long Switzerland	1087	1088	1085	1087
Long US	1087	1088	1085	1087
Long UK	1087	1088	1085	1087
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Long Europe	1087	1088	1085	1087
Long Asia	1087	1088	1085	1087
Long Oceania	1087	1088	1085	1087
Long Africa	1087	1088	1085	1087
Long Latin America	1087	1088	1085	1087
Long Middle East	1087	1088	1085	1087

Other Spot Rates				
Country	Sterling	Spot	1 month	3 months
USA	100.00	2.779	2.782	2.785
UK	100.00	2.779	2.782	2.785
Australia	100.00	2.050	2.050	2.050
Canada	100.00	2.050	2.050	2.050
France	100.00	2.050	2.050	2.050
Germany	100.00	2.050	2.050	2.050
Italy	100.00	2.050	2.050	2.050
Japan	100.00	2.050	2.050	2.050
South Africa	100.00	2.050	2.050	2.050
Spain	100.00	2.050	2.050	2.050
Sweden	100.00	2.050	2.050	2.050
Switzerland	100.00	2.050	2.050	2.050
US	100.00	2.050	2.050	2.050

Money Market Rates												
	Overnight		1 week		1 month		3 months		6 months		1 year	
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Domestic Depos												
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SPORT

Golf: Britain's most promising player is using this week's Buick Classic to hone his challenge for a first Major title

Westwood poised for breakthrough

BY ANDY FARRELL
in New York

ABOUT the only thing that Lee Westwood has got wrong this year, and there has not been much, is his timing. Outside of his actual golf swing, which has timing, rhythm and power in perfect unison, it has been ever so slightly off. Even when he took a swipe at a bush at Wentworth, a rare indiscretion from someone who is mature beyond his 25 years, it was caught on television and he got a telling off from his granny.

Then, after the first of the two tournaments he won last week, the Deutsche Bank Open in Hamburg last Monday, Westwood bought himself a Rolex watch. "I had never won a watch for anything," he said.

On Sunday, he was handed an Omega timepiece as part of his prize for winning the English Open at Hanbury Manor. The back-to-back victories, and the confident manner in which he achieved them, only went to emphasise the star quality of the youngster from Workson. Only one thing remains to be ticked off his list and that is to win a major championship. And that, Colin Montgomerie can remind him, is as much to do with timing as talent.

It is hard to believe, given that over the last 23 months Westwood has won nine times in eight countries and on every continent barring Africa, that this is only his second year playing in a full set of majors. Last year, only his fourth as a professional, Westwood impressed by finishing no worse than 29th, especially as he had never played in America before. But following a global winning spree of six titles in seven months, victory in a major is a realistic expectation.

It is the next step for a man whose career has been less about giant leaps than determined strides in the same direction. Others may wonder if he will eclipse Nick Faldo's six majors but Westwood's focus is on the US Open, which tees off at the Olympic club in San Francisco a week today. Can he win? The few words that Westwood uses to answer the question speak volumes. "There is no reason why not," he replied. Not brashly arrogant, just the right sort of cockiness.

Westwood finished 41st at the US Masters and now accepts his preparation was thrown by winning, with unfortunate timing, the previous week in New Orleans. But another of Westwood's qualities is to learn from such experiences. At Hanbury, he said: "I knew how to approach this week after the experience I had in winning at New Orleans. It took a lot out of me. There were a lot of things to cope with and the media attention was huge. I'm still looking for the right way to pre-



Lee Westwood, a star in stripes, arrived in the United States buoyed by playing his last two tournaments in an aggregate 40 under par

Reuters

pare for majors and next year I'll probably take the week before off."

But not this week. Westwood is playing in the Buick Classic at the Westchester club outside New York. Some might want to freewheel given the challenge to come next week, but Westwood is not backing away from what would be an astonishing treble. "I am not treating the Buick as practice for the US Open," he said. "I'm not the sort who can do that. I don't believe in playing in tournaments and using them as practice rounds."

Westwood faces strong opposition

from the likes of Ernie Els, Davis Love, Jose Maria Olazabal, Ian Woosnam, Bernhard Langer and Nick Faldo. Els himself is attempting a treble as he has won the Buick Classic for the last two years, which makes last year's US Open winner the defending champion for the next two weeks.

He is also the official No 1 on the world rankings, where Westwood is 13th, but Els has his own view of the standings. "I'd like to think they are correct but in my opinion Fred Couples has been the No 1 recently and

Lee Westwood was certainly the No 1 last week with his back-to-back wins," the South African said. "Lee is a very underrated player."

Only in America, maybe. In Europe, Westwood has just completed 10 consecutive rounds in the 60s and was 40 under par for his last two tournaments. It is fair to say he is in a confident frame of mind. The thick rough and the narrow fairways of any US Open course – and Olympic will conform to the usual format – is not something he lies awake at night worrying about.

"When you are hitting the ball straight, any course suits your game," he said. As for Olympic's ultra fast greens, just bring them on. "I like them as fast as possible so you have to use your imagination."

Westwood and his friend, Darren Clarke, made the fastest possible trip across the Atlantic on Concorde on Sunday evening, arriving in New York at about the same hour he had holed the winning putt at Hanbury Manor. It was a stylish victory celebration but not an act of ostentation. "It sounds flashy but it is just the

right thing to do because the stakes are so high," said Andrew Chandler, Westwood's manager. "Hopefully, the extra night's sleep will make a difference. Last year, when Darren and Lee went out on a Monday for a tournament in America, they found they were still tired when it started on the Thursday."

It is all about timing and Westwood was awry again yesterday. In switching his Pro-Am tee-time to the morning he managed to miss the World Cup opener in Paris, the very thing he was trying to avoid.

RISE AND RISE OF WESTWOOD

IN THE last eight months since making his debut in Europe's winning Ryder Cup team at Valderrama (won 2 lost 3), Lee Westwood has won six tournaments and earned just over £1.3m. He has played his last 10 rounds in the 60s and was 40 under par for his last two tournaments.

Alfred Dunhill Cup winnings	£8,500
Volvo Masters Win	£166,000
Money-list bonus 3rd	£78,000
Sarazen World Open 2nd	£144,000
Visa Taiheyo Win	£130,000
Dunlop Phoenix 21st	£7,800
Australian Open Win	£90,000
Johnnie Walker Classic 4th	£31,470
Australian Masters 13th	£6,040
Malaysian Open 2nd	£19,640
Dubai Classic 6th	£23,000
Qatar Masters 21st	£6,636
Bay Hill Invitational 13th	£23,006
US Players' C'ship 5th	£89,570
Freep't McDermott Win	£187,730
US Masters 44th	£7,400
Italian Open 6th	£13,788
B&H International 65th	£1,500
PGA Championship 16th	£15,564
Deutsche Bk Open Win	£183,340
English Open Win	£108,330
Total winnings	£1,341,314

Hart shapes next All Black dynasty

IT IS now almost three years since Sean Fitzpatrick's All Blacks ripped into England like 15 Torquemadas suffering from an unusually acute sense of moral outrage and ever since that inquisitorial World Cup examination in Cape Town, red robe believers have found salvation only in the thought that time would eventually decimate perhaps the finest New Zealand side ever to wear the silver fern.

And on the face of it, the decay has indeed set in. Fitzpatrick, Frank Bunce and Zinzan Brooke have gone. Justin Marshall is in pieces, the tight forwards are due a bus pass and Jonah Lomu, damn his eyes, has yet to revisit the giddy heights of Newlands and is by no means certain to do so. Probe a little deeper, though, and the words "fool" and "paradise" begin to emerge. New Zealand may be rebuilding, but they have rugby's answer to Christopher Wren walking around the construction site in a hard hat. Another cathedral to the 15-man game is beginning to take shape.

John Hart, man manager extraordinaire and the nearest thing rugby has to a practising intellectual, is the master craftsman mixing the cement and, as usual, he has all his raw materials in the right proportions. "There can never be a good moment to lose genuinely great players like Frank or Zinny, let alone someone like Fitz, who has been so central to us over the years, but if you're pressing me, I'd have to admit that this is as good a time as any," he said this week as the All

New Zealand's coach is building another forbidding XV to succeed Fitzpatrick's legends. By Chris Hewett, in Rotorua

Blacks gathered in Auckland to begin preparations for the two-Test series with England.

"We always suspected we would have to start addressing the subject of successors at this juncture and that's the way things have turned out. The key was to prepare the ground with the possibility of retirements and long-term injuries in mind and I have to say that I'm pretty pleased with the building blocks we've put in place."

"The appointment of Taine Randle to succeed Fitz as skipper didn't cost me too much sleep, that's for sure. He's captained virtually every side he's ever played in – he's been doing it since he was so high – and his intelligence, tactical understanding, communication skills and footballing prowess made him the obvious candidate."

"Other areas have been more difficult, but they're coming right now. Two years ago, we had no props outside the top two or three. Literally, no props. In '96 we had to take a veteran, Phil Coffin, to South Africa just to hold the scrum up and protect the youngsters. Now we have seven really good operators from which to choose. It's the same at lock, where we have Glenn Taylor, Norman Maxwell and Charles Riechelmann coming through behind Robin Brooke and Ian Jones. I'd be per-

fectly happy to ask any one of them to make the step up."

Oh dear. That explodes the "aging tight five" theory. Any other slender but life-sustaining straws you would like to remove from English clutches, John? "Well, there's Jonah. Gee, I don't have to tell you how highly we regard him. It's not an act, you know. He's right back up there at World Cup level, which is some achievement for a guy who has been through such a terrible time with illness and injury." Gulp.

Lomu says he is fitter, faster and feistier at 23 than at any time since he tracted his way over and through his overmatched English rivals on that famous semi-final afternoon in the Western Cape. He will renew his victimisation of anything in a white shirt when New Zealand A take on the tourists in Hamilton on Saturday and if that little outing goes remotely to plan, he will make the side for the opening Test in Dunedin a week later.

Whatever the verdict on Lomu, Hart has at his disposal riches beyond the wildest imaginings of any other coach in world rugby. He deserves his luxury, too, for he has set new standards of managerial expertise. Witness his sympathetic handling of Jeremy Stanley, the bright young Auckland centre, this week.



John Hart (right) guides latest silver fern luminaries

Allsport

Stanley, a medical student, was unhesitatingly released from New Zealand A duty for the next fortnight to concentrate on important exams, even though his professional contract demands his availability for representative rugby. "Professionalism is going to make this sort of balance harder to achieve, but I want to see mature, intelligent, special people playing for the All Blacks and you don't always get the necessary personal qualities from rugby alone," Hart said. Compare that to Bristol's dictatorial attempts to force Josh Lewsey, their England Under-21 stand-off, to play through his exams last month.

Hart does not plough a lone furrow, of course. New Zealand's entire structure – a structure in which one in seven of the population plays some sort of competitive rugby every week – is geared towards the con-

tinued success of the All Blacks, who sit proudly at the apex of perhaps the most stable sporting pyramid to be found anywhere on the planet. "The control of our assets, the players, is not disputed," he explained. "The union owns them; 150 pro players with Super 12 contracts and a potential future in the All Black set-up."

"It's an enviable position to be in. I agree, and I think we were very fortunate in the speed with which the New Zealand union embraced and organised the professional game here. England have not been so fortunate, of course. But when you boil the whole thing down, you get back to the point that rugby is so crucial to our identity as a nation. We're a small country and this sport gives us one of our few opportunities to make a mark on the world. In a very important sense, we have to get it right. There is no option."

Dawson returns to Woodward's bold new world

BY CHRIS HEWETT

ENGLAND'S NOW infamous 76-0 drubbing by Australia last weekend has not deflected Clive Woodward, the national coach, from his profoundly-held belief that fortune favours the bold. Selectorial experiments may have gone up in smoke in Brisbane – on the evidence of Saturday night, Woodward would have landed a leading role in Carry On Chemist – but he returned to the laboratory yesterday and duly came up with a new brainwave.

Tom Reim, the Sale wing, will play in the unfamiliar position of full-back in this Saturday's tough assignment against New Zealand A in Hamilton. Given the threat posed by an all-international back three of Adrian Cashmore, Glen Osborne and Jonah Lomu, it smacks of another ultra-bold move by a coach with an undiluted passion for the unorthodox.

"I don't actually agree that Tom has been picked out of position," Woodward said in Rotorua yesterday. "He has experience in the No 15 shirt and anyway, there is hardly a world of difference between wing and full-back play these days." Reim's change of scenery opens up the wing positions for Mark Moore, who has the dubious honour of marking Lomu, and Dominic Chapman, the slightly-built hide in one of Lomu's boots.

Woodward's back-line selection may have more to do with the sudden appearance in midfield of Nick Beal, the versatile Northampton attacker who enjoyed his share of

bright moments on last summer's Lions tour of South Africa. Beal was originally named at full-back, but the selectors may now be hoping that a successful run at centre will allow Matt Perry to return to his natural No 15 role against New Zealand in Dunedin on Saturday week.

The other significant change to Woodward's blueprint sees Matt Dawson, the tour captain, restored at scrum-half. Dawson missed the Wallaby Test through injury but successfully survived consecutive full-contact training sessions and was duly declared fit yesterday.

"It was a bitterly frustrating experience watching my team-mates struggle so badly against the Australians, but that game is now history and we've agreed not to discuss it further," the Northampton half-back said. "As far as I'm concerned, this tour starts anew in Hamilton on Saturday and the match cannot come too quickly. There is a genuine air of anticipation amongst the party and we're confident we can eradicate the basic errors we were guilty of committing in Brisbane."

● Justin Bishop, the London Irish right wing, has been selected ahead of Richard Wallace for Ireland against South Africa in Bloemfontein on Saturday. Wallace, who played in Ireland's 52-13 defeat by Griqualand West in Kimberley on Tuesday, has suffered from a dip in form.

Relief for Graf in first test on grass

TENNIS
BY GUY HODGSON

WHEN TROUBLE has followed you like a small, ravenous dog, any respite is embraced and Steffi Graf clung happily to a trifle. Normally a 5-7, 6-2, 6-4 win in the second round of the DFS Classic at Edgbaston Priory would barely merit mention in a glittering curriculum vitae, yesterday it marked a welcome and significant step forward.

A year to the day since the seven-times Wimbledon champion had a career-threatening operation on her left knee, it was her first win on a grass court since the German triumphed at the All England club in 1996. A trifle? The relief that she could still knock a ball round a court was profound.

At the end, after 111 minutes' play had helped clear the cobwebs of doubt, Rennie Stubbs, who also lost eight months to injury, and a grin lit up her face. Maybe, with her 29th birthday on Sunday, there is still some time before the clock stops ticking on her tennis.

"Physically and mentally I feel fine," she said. What was her goal now? "Just to play at Wimbledon," she replied. An eighth title, after three months away from the sport and with barely any matches for a year, was too grand an ambition to conceive.

"The ball was bouncing low and when we started I was thinking 'oh my God, this is going to be difficult'. But the reason why I came here was to get in situations where it's going to get close. Anything could have happened out there."

Anything that has happened to Graf recently has not been benign and it is a mark of her travails that this week she fell off the WTA computer completely. You have to compete in at least three tournaments to get a ranking and she had managed only two brief stays at Wimbledon.

and Indian Wells. Add the problem of her father's three-year spell in prison for tax evasion, and the picture of an erstwhile champion under a cloud is complete.

Cloud was the pertinent word as rain, intermittent but heavy, kept Graf off court until 3.45pm and reduced the crowd. As she arrived 300 pairs of eyes were drawn to her left knee, which would have had enough strapping to have won the professional respect of an Ancient Egyptian undertaker had her opponent not sported an even more impressive bandage. We were watching the battle of wounded knee.

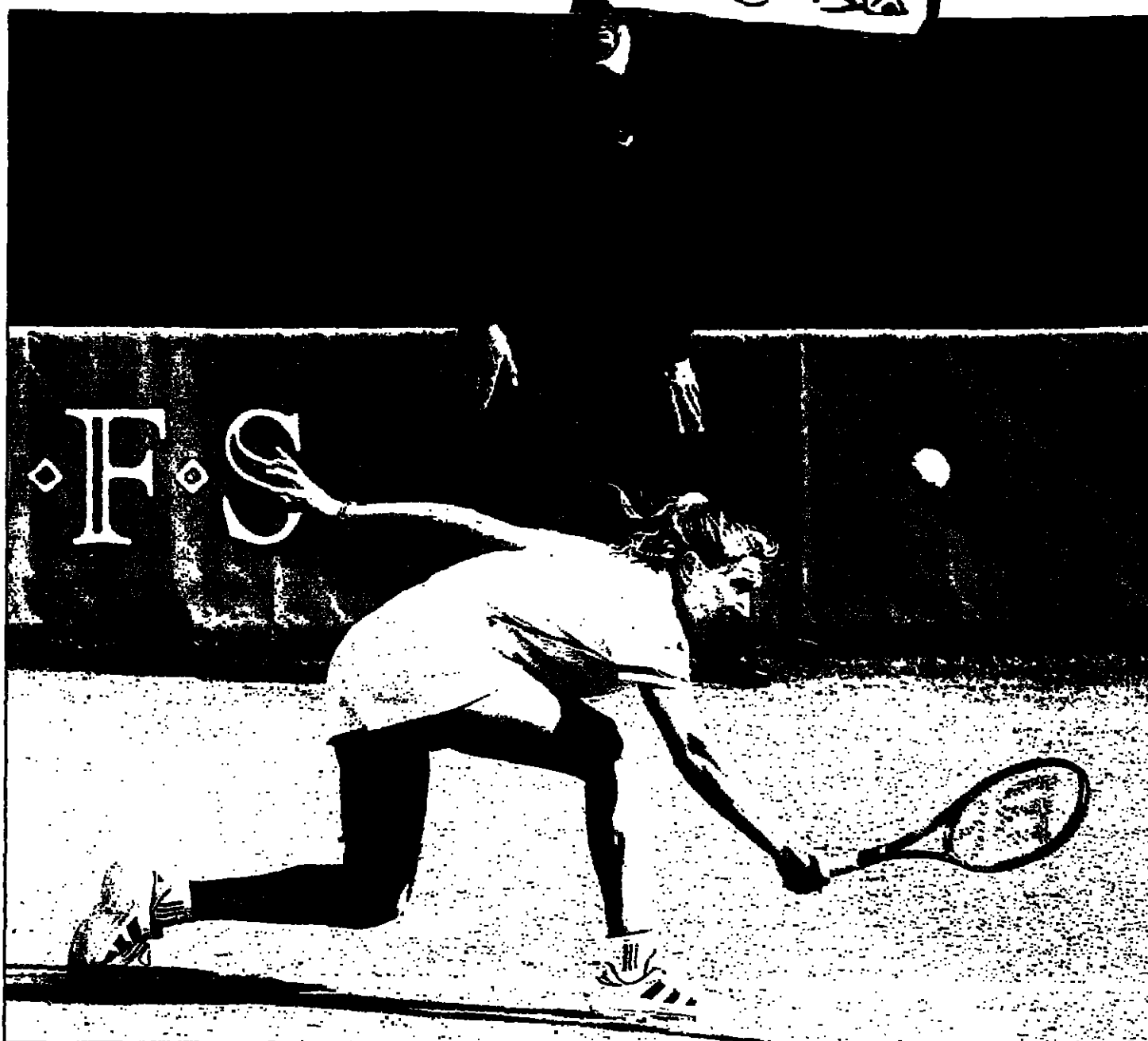
Two double-faults were conceded in Graf's first service game while her forehead, once the most feared stroke in women's tennis, alternated between thumping accuracy and limp waywardness.

At one point she exhaled with frustration, at another when she finally found her range with her first serve, she whooped with ironic delight. She was like an old steam engine groaning into action after months of inaction. You could almost see the rust being rubbed off her.

Stubbs is possibly Graf's closest friend on the tour and is a regular practice partner, which is fine when you are blowing hot but less so when the person knows your game intimately enough to prey on weakness. The Australian broke twice, the second time crucially to 30, taking the first set 7-5 in 48 minutes.

Graf took the next 6-2 and then broke in the first game of the third when Stubbs served a double fault at break point. By the finish slurs had replaced the frowns and the frustration. "It was a pretty good match wasn't it," she said to her opponent.

Five aces had not compensated for 12 double faults but Graf had won on her favourite surface. The last time her opponent was Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in a Wimbledon final, yesterday it was herself.



Steffi Graf back in the old routine during her victory over Rennie Stubbs at Edgbaston Priory yesterday

Peter Jay

Organisers face £500,000 payout

BY JOHN ROBERTS
at Queen's Club

THE R-WORD is banned until after Wimbledon. Drenched organisers of the Stella Artois Championships at London's Queen's Club are faced with refunding almost £500,000 in rain checks to spectators - £50,000 more than the prize money.

Money is paid back if less than two hours' play is completed on the Centre Court. Monday's washout cost the promoters between £200,000 and £250,000, and only 28 minutes had been completed when play was abandoned yesterday.

The Stella Artois Championships was the first event in British sport to offer rain checks, and this is the first time since it started in 1979 that

refunds have been made on two days.

Today's Centre Court matches have been re-scheduled for 10.30am, starting with Britain's Tim Henman taking on the Armenian Sargis Sargsian, against whom he retired because of back spasm during the first set of their opening round match at the French Open.

This will be followed by the match between the Australians Pat Rafter and Scott Draper, who had completed only seven games when play was abandoned yesterday. Greg Rusedzki, the British No 1 and No 2 seed, is due to play the Frenchman Jerome Golmard on the Centre Court not before 2pm.

Spectators arrived yesterday hop-

ing to see the top two British players, who had been given byes in the first round, but all that was possible was 28 minutes of endeavour between Rafter and Draper. Officials are wondering how they have managed to complete the opening round and to have at least a damp toe in round three.

Yesterday's heavy showers teased the ground staff and frustrated the spectators, who watched a good deal of fifty footwork as the covers were moved back and forth across the grass courts before play commenced five hours late on the Centre Court at 4.30 pm.

Six minutes later, Rafter, the No 3 seed and United States Open champion, and Draper, ranked No 108 in the world, returned to the

changing room as the tarpaulin took their place on the court for a further 84 minutes. Play resumed at 5.50 pm, this time for 22 minutes. When the Aussies returned to shelter, Draper was a break up, at 4-5, and 15-40 down on his serve.

Meanwhile in Halle, Germany, top-seeded Petr Korda was beaten in straight sets at the Gerry Weber Open, while No 3 seed Richard Krajicek sailed into the quarter-finals behind his big serve.

Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands upset Korda, the Czech world No 3, 7-6, 6-4, at the grass tune-up for Wimbledon, while Krajicek beat the German Davis Cup player Tommy Haas, 3-6, 6-4, 6-1, taking just one hour, 27 minutes to complete the victory.

Troussier considering Wednesday approach

FOOTBALL
BY CATHERINE RILEY

PHILIPPE TROUSSIER, the South Africa coach, looks certain to be named as the new Sheffield Wednesday manager, taking over from Ron Atkinson, whose contract was not renewed at the end of last season.

Troussier yesterday confirmed that he had also been in contact with Celtic, but said: "I had a chat with Sheffield Wednesday yesterday. Nothing's signed, but we have been talking and there's a very good chance of things succeeding."

The 43-year-old Frenchman is a known disciplinarian and has a reputation for a quick temper, having fallen foul of several football authorities during his 10 years coaching club and national teams in Africa.

He was sacked by Ivory Coast for calling the federation president a fool, while South African club Kaizer Chiefs sacked him when players revolted against harsh training methods. Nigeria sacked him after accusations of "technical incompetence", and within a week of being in charge of South Africa, players complained of physical abuse.

The end could be in sight for the long-running Leicester-Everton saga, with Martin O'Neill, the Potters manager, deciding if he is going to leave after a meeting with the chairman, Sir Rodney Walker, tomorrow.

O'Neill claims he still has one or two points he wants to discuss with Sir Rodney before he comes to a decision. If the Ulsterman does leave Filbert Street, that could trigger Howard Kendall's long-mooted departure from Everton, with O'Neill taking over at Goodison Park.

A resigned Kendall, meanwhile, said yesterday: "Nothing has changed. I've heard nothing and I am just getting on with my job. I'm just working as usual and trying to plan for new players and the pre-season. I'll keep doing my job for Everton until I'm told otherwise."

Jürgen Klinsmann has denied reports that he is to join Major League Soccer team Los Angeles Galaxy after the World Cup finals. The German striker, who left Tottenham at the end of last season, said: "There is no deal. I made it clear that I would decide on my future only after the World Cup."

After less than a week out of football, Ron Noades, the former owner of Crystal Palace, is back after buying Dave Webb's controlling interest in Brentford. Noades left Selhurst Park last week after the completion of Mark Goldberg's takeover and he is believed to have paid around £1m for his 51 per cent stake in the Bees.

David James, linked with a move away from Anfield after the signing of Brad Friedel, has denied he wants to leave. "I have no intention of leaving," James said. "If Liverpool want to sell me it is still going to be my decision and at the moment I don't want to go anywhere."

Neil Warnock, who left Oldham last month, may be moving across Greater Manchester to take charge of Bury. Warnock - also linked with Sheffield United's managerial vacancy - has had discussions with the First Division side this week. He said: "Bury seems a lovely challenge that's just made for me. Hopefully everything can be sorted out by the end of the week."

Borussia Dortmund have won their appeal in Germany to stop goalkeeper Stefan Klos from moving to Rangers this summer. A court ruled that, contrary to Klos's claims, his career would not suffer if he stayed at Dortmund.

The Dortmund manager, Michael Meier, said afterwards that he hoped the two parties could reach an amicable solution as his club was not "a prison".

SPORTING DIGEST

ATHLETICS

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Baggio's taste for the unexpected can spur Italy

ALESSANDRO DEL PIERO is one of the world's special talents and Italy will miss him when they play their opening game against Chile today. Then again, with Del Piero injured, it cannot be too much of a hardship to have somebody of the calibre of Roberto Baggio ready and willing to take over.

As a supporter of England it worries me that Italy have slipped in through the back door - just as I worried when Manchester United could not remove Juventus from the Champions' League last season.

At World Cups Italy always tend to come good. Their squad has immense reserves of class and there will be no group of players in France better prepared. The Italian player is an extremely fit athlete, as we saw



RAY WILKINS

in America in 1994 when they twice went down to 10 men and yet still possessed the strength and determination to come through in extra time. It is the quality of the goal-

scoring that the Italian League consistently throws up which confirms to me that it is still the strongest in Europe, no matter that some will try and argue in favour of our Premiership. To find the net consistently against defensive players who are so adept at neutralising your threat is a very special gift.

With everybody fit Maldini's first-choice attack will be Del Piero alongside Christian Vieri, who is more like a British centre-forward in that he stands six foot-plus and has immense strength. Vieri is quite an oddity in that he is predominantly left-sided. Apart from the great Argentinian Mario Kempes, I am struggling to think of a really outstanding central striker who is happiest when the ball is on his left.

Baggio's inclusion for Del Piero will enable Italy to stick with a tall man-small man combination. It's a shame for Gianfranco Zola that his winning goal in the Cup-Winners' Cup final was not sufficient to earn him a place in the squad, but Baggio's return with Bologna has been very impressive. He has proved himself the top Italian marksman in the Italian League and is a player always capable of producing the unexpected.

It is another indication of the riches on display in Italy every week that the Azzurri's biggest problem this afternoon is likely to come from Marcelo Salas, who is joining Lazio, and Ivan Zamorano, who has shown with Internazionale what a threat he can be. Chile also have talent spread

throughout their side, but I expect Italy to launch Group B with a victory.

Having said that, you cannot be over-confident because they are notoriously bad starters in major tournaments. I don't know why that should be but they tend to be quite nervous in the group stages until they find their stride. The longer they stay in the tournament the more threatening they will become, and I do not expect them to make the same mistake as in Euro 96 when they made five changes for the second game to give key players a breather and as a result paid for it by failing to qualify.

For this World Cup Italy expected a strange qualification and were only able to get in via the play-

offs. They struggled to score in three of their last four group games, which is bemusing after all that I have said about the wealth of attacking talent at their disposal. There are goals in the midfield area as well. We have seen just what Roberto Di Matteo is capable of, and Dino Baggio often pops up to score from distance.

Italy did very well when beating England at Wembley, but in the return game in Rome they disappointed. They have since discovered all sorts of excuses for their performance that night, but perhaps we should just congratulate ourselves because Glenn Hoddle's men were pumped up for the occasion and produced a magnificent team display. Compared with 1994 the Italian

squad is much younger and the player that stands out because he is no longer there is Franco Baresi, the best I ever played alongside and that goes for every area of the field. The Milan defender had a massive presence both in the dressing-room and on the pitch and possessed two clever feet. For a central defender he had the touch of a centre-forward.

In his place have come some pretty formidable stoppers in their own right, with Lazio's Alessandro Nesta now talked about as the most outstanding defender in the Italian game. It must be strange for the manager having his own son, Paolo, as his left-back and captain, but because he picks himself by virtue of his all-round excellence it is not the problem it would otherwise have been.

Japanese fans sold phantom tickets

BY NICK HARRIS

MORE THAN 20,000 Japanese football fans are likely to find out within the next few days that they have bought "phantom" World Cup tickets that do not exist.

Over 12,000 of the fans affected - who bought travel packages and the promise of tickets from travel agents across Japan - are already in France or are planning to travel to Toulouse for their side's opening group game against Argentina on Sunday, the Japan Association of Travel Agents announced at an emergency meeting in Tokyo yesterday.

The problem is believed to have been caused by travel agents sourcing tickets through non-official suppliers who have then failed to deliver. As well as affecting numerous agents in Japan, the *Independent* has learned that at least four Japanese travel agents based in London have also been affected. One source estimates that up to 2,000 tickets purchased from these London agents - mainly by Japanese businessmen living in Britain - have not been delivered.

"There has been one massive cock-up," said one agent, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "Agents around the world have been buying promises of tickets on the black market, and when that happens you're in trouble."

IN FRANCE WITHOUT A TICKET

Nicholas Harting's daily quest to get into a World Cup match: Day One

THIS luck surely cannot last. Outside the Stade de France for yesterday's opening game, with a glum look on my face, I saw a Belgian acquaintance with an envelope in his hand. His friend was over an hour late. Not too much persuasion was needed before he let me have the 500 francs (£53) ticket for 650 francs. Other desperados were not so fortunate. Carrying signs indicating "one place needed" they had as much as £500 in their pockets. The trouble was there was no one in sight selling any tickets.

He added that most of the affected companies, both in London and Japan, were reluctant to admit that they could not fulfil their orders, and that most of them were still attempting to find alternative sources of tickets. "I should imagine everything is going on behind closed doors," he said. "People are still trying feverishly to get tickets."

The full extent of the problem will not be known for several days, although it is understood that two of the largest Japanese agents are thought to have 15,000 undelivered ticket orders between them alone. Supporters with "phantom" tickets from other countries have also started to emerge.

A group of 1,100 Brazilians discovered yesterday that the tickets they had bought for their side's opening World Cup match against Scotland in Paris did not exist, French police said. A spokesman said that a first group of around 100 Brazilians had pre-paid for the tickets, only to be told when they arrived in Paris that the tickets were not available.

A Spanish travel agency responsible for buying the tickets said that it had been duped by an American firm that had taken its money and then failed to deliver the tickets.

"I'm sure we've been conned," said a spokesman for the Spanish company. The spokesman promised to refund the \$400 (£250) paid by each of the Brazilians, although this was likely to be little comfort to the 1,100 who had travelled from South America to France to watch their team play.

These are not the first cases of phantom tickets. Last week a London tickets agency, Great Portland Entertainment Ltd, was closed down after a raid by the local trading standards office and the Department of Trade and Industry. The company was reported to have taken in excess of £2.4m for World Cup tickets from around 40,000 fans, but had not delivered the vast majority of the tickets. Earlier this week, a Glasgow-based agent, Kelvin Travel, admitted that it had been let down by a non-official supplier and was unable to provide tickets for 640 customers.

As the World Cup progresses, it is expected that more cases will emerge, both in Britain and abroad. Demand for tickets has consistently outstripped demand in many of the participating countries. Proof of the clamour for tickets could be found in Paris yesterday where touts were asking for £1,500 for seats (with a face value between £15-£40) for the Brazil versus Scotland game.



Magic moment: François Omam-Biyik heads home his unforgettable goal against Argentina in the 1990 finals. I've had two World Cups with Cameroon, both very different. This time, I hope we can find some middle ground.

Cameroon seeking unity

IF IT is arguments about bonus payments and ticket fraud, if it is a team arriving mysteriously short of the correct visas and with a group of players barely acquainted with their new coach, then it must be the World Cup and it must be Cameroon.

The question the other inmates of Group B - Austria, Italy and Chile - will want to know, is which Cameroon: the joyously gifted side which surprised the world in 1990 or the demoralised rabble which lost 6-1 to Russia four years later? The psychiatrist's chair rather than the football field seems at times to be the Indomitable Lions' natural habitat. The Austrians will don regulation issue white coats tonight in Toulouse.

In a continent of extremes, Cameroon cannot be measured in halves. Their squad includes the youngest player in the tournament, Samuel Eto'o, aged 17 years and three months, and the 32-year-old François Omam-Biyik, surprisingly recalled for his third World Cup eight years after the inevitable tabloid headline prompted by his headed goal against Argentina. "On Yer Biyik," duly followed the advice, journeying to Lens and Mexico before returning to Italy with Sampdoria last season. The return of the Frenchman, Claude Le Roy, to his old job as the Cameroon coach, in March, opened the door to the sole

survivor of the old guard. "To play in this World Cup is the culmination of my 15 years as a professional," he says. "I've had two World Cups with Cameroon, both very different. This time, I hope we can find some middle ground."

A forlorn hope, perhaps. The progress of this campaign as much as the others depends on whether finance or football is the focus of attention. "We had problems in 1990, but it helped to forge a strong team spirit," says Joseph-Antoine Bell, the goalkeeper-cum-shop steward who was dropped on the eve of Italia 90. "We fought for our rights then and won. In 1994, it didn't happen. I was fed up with fighting for the team."

"This is a good team with talented players, but off the field it's not going to be any different. It's the same problem with bonus payments we had eight years ago, those who have the money don't want to give it to the players. The Federation and the Ministry really don't work together to lay down clear rules. They are not interested in the players, and as long as they have that attitude

there will be problems." (Plus ça change...)

With strong leadership, Bell says, the off-field strife can be conducted into a positive on-field force. "But François is a great player; not a leader. What worries me is that the young players will have no guidance. Everything depends on the first match."

The arrival of Le Roy, albeit belated, has begun to transform the spirit in the divided Cameroon camp. After a spell in charge in the late 1980s, the Frenchman has experienced the delicate balance of political forces at work in the nation's passion. A squad dominated by foreign-based players was rapidly shaken out of its complacency. "I have been particularly surprised by the quality of local players," he says diplomatically. "I asked the 16 coaches of the First Division clubs to send me some players for a training camp and I had calls from 200 others all wanting to be considered. I still have no idea how they got my phone number."

Four home-based players - Serge Kewé, Pierre Njanka, Josef Elanga and Joseph Ndo - have been included in a squad of exiles retrieved from Brazil, Turkey, Spain, Greece, France, Italy, Japan and Germany. Despite the foreign influence, the brand of football remains resolutely singular. "There is no such thing as African football," Le Roy says. "Cameroon is Cameroon and is totally different from any other team. We don't know how to be cautious," adds Bell. "It is not in our nature. We can control a game through physical domination but not tactically. Our players are born to attack and no one has taught them how to defend. The difference now is that we cannot surprise anybody. Austria will not be ashamed to defend and win 1-0."

Not that the genius for surprise has totally deserted the World Cup's crazy gang. Marco Viviani Fide, sadly sidelined for the World Cup by a broken leg, has been receiving advice from Cameroon faith-healers. "They say they can heal me in three days by burying my leg in the ground and putting fire around it or massaging my leg with gorilla bones while invoking the spirits of my ancestors." Team spirit will be the key against Austria.

"That is my Cup Final," Omam-Biyik says. "If we can create the image of a team and forget our problems, that would be beautiful."

Italy are above us, Chile are a little bit above, and therefore we will have to fight against Austria," Le Roy said.

The veteran Austrians, who have not enjoyed the best of warm-up campaigns, hope that their experience will tell against their younger opponents, who have seven players aged 23 or under in the squad, including the 17-year-old Samuel Eto'o, the youngest player at the tournament. In contrast, 11 of the Austrian 22 are over 30.

"It's very important to get three points in the first game. Otherwise it's going to be difficult," the Austrian central defender Anton Pfeffer said.

Although Cameroon have notched up some decent wins recently, including a 2-1 victory in Denmark, they still lack a regular goal scorer. The veteran striker François Omam-Biyik, the scorer of the goal that beat Argentina in 1990, hit both goals in Copenhagen but is unlikely to last the full 90 minutes and does not have a proven front man alongside him.

Austria's coach, Herbert Prohaska, said: "Cameroon have done well in their recent games, we've done less well. We have to change that. I think they have a very good defence, but we'll try to get an early goal and then we'll have more self-confidence."

Ravanelli dropped from Italy squad

ITALY FACE Chile in their opening World Cup match in Bordeaux today without two of the strikers they picked for their original squad. Alessandro del Piero is still nursing an injury - while Fabrizio Ravanelli was sent home yesterday and will play no part in the tournament.

Ravanelli, the Middlesbrough striker, is suffering from a serious case of influenza and has been replaced by Parma's Enrico Chiesa, who has been in France with the party as cover for Del Piero.

Ravanelli fell ill on Tuesday with a persistent sore throat and a high temperature. "He has bronchial pneumonia. He is responding well to a course of antibiotics and his situation is not serious," the Italian squad's press officer, Stefano Baldacci, said. "Nevertheless, he has been told to rest completely for five to six days."

Ravanelli's illness comes a week after his three-year old son, Luca, was rushed to hospital in Italy with a virus which caused a fever and vomiting. "The two illnesses aren't related," Baldacci said.

Without Ravanelli and Del Piero, Roberto Baggio and Christian Vieri will be playing together in a competitive match for the first time in attack. At the back, Italy's coach, Cesare Maldini, has handed Alessandro Nesta the job of marking Chile's Italian-based striker Ivan Zamorano, who has fully recovered from a minor knee injury picked up in training.

In the other game in Group B, Cameroon take on Austria in Toulouse. The African side's coach, Claude Le Roy, knows his young side must break through an organised defence as they did most famously in 1990, when they beat the holders Argentina in the opening game and went on to reach the last eight.

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"The important thing is to blend in individually with a team game. There are at least six other teams who can win: Germany, Italy, England, France, Spain and Argentina. And I expect a lot, at least in terms of entertainment, from Nigeria. I hope that playing in a thoughtful and attacking way will be rewarded." *Pele on Brazil's rivals, La Gazzetta dello Sport, Italy.*

"Two years ago [in Euro 96] I wasn't well physically and I played terribly in the last match. Now I know what I have to do and how I have to do it. Playing for two years with Juventus in Italy and in Europe has taught me a lot of things. I have acquired tactical ideas that were previously unknown to me, I have learnt to play for a big side, I have

THE GLOBAL GAME

THE WORLD CUP AROUND THE WORLD

acquired the habit of winning. Before I was fatalistic, I accepted results with resignation. Now, I think only and obsessively of victory." *Zinedine Zidane, France's playmaker, La Gazzetta dello Sport.*

"Only the most fanatical expect the Reggae Boys to win the World Cup, but Jamaicans agree that the benefits from their country's first qualification for the world's premier

football tournament extend well beyond football. The Jamaica Tourist Board has leapt aboard the promotional bandwagon spawned by the national team's success by commissioning a 50ft in diameter, 366lb football, painted in the national colours of black, green and gold as an elaborate commemoration of the Reggae Boys' achievement. Already referred to the *Guinness Book of Records* for

possible ratification as the "world's biggest football", the ball is being described as a "bon voyage card" for the island's football heroes. The big ball, decorated with thousands of signatures and goodwill messages, will spend the duration of the World Cup on prominent display at the Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris after being shown off over the past month in New York, Kingston and London. Reggae concerts have been planned for leading French cities for the duration of the tournament with leading entertainers Jimmy Cliff, Diana King, Ernie Smith, Tony Rebel, Bujari Banton, Julian and Damion Marley among those lined up. Top dancehall sound systems Stone Love and Bodyguard will also be there." *The Gleaner, Jamaica.*

Arendse on way home

THE SOUTH African reserve goalkeeper, Andre Arendse of Fulham, has been ruled out of the World Cup finals with a twisted knee. He is being replaced by the uncapped Paul Evans, who was once on the books of Leeds United.

The injury marks the end of a bad season for Arendse. He played in all of South Africa's qualifying matches, but lost his place in the starting line-up last December. He has also dropped out of the reckoning at his club following some unconvincing displays in the Second Division.

Nigeria have called up the defender Mubi Oparaku, from the Belgian Second Division side Kapellen,

to replace Jero Shakpoke, who was sent home with a broken collar bone on Tuesday. Yesterday was the last opportunity for finalists to replace injured players in their squads.

Nigeria, who play Spain in their first match on Saturday in Nantes, have two other worries. The striker Daniel Amokachi and the midfielder Nwankwo Kanu did not take part in training yesterday. But both should resume training today and could be fit for the match. Amokachi hurt a knee in practice on Tuesday and Kanu has a stomach upset.

Yugoslavia's striker Dejan Savicevic is doubtful for his team's opening game with Iran on Sunday.

The Milan player, who has had an injury-plagued season, is suffering from a knee injury and could only do light training yesterday.

The Belgian defender Gordon Vidovic suffered a groin strain in training yesterday and is doubtful for Saturday's opening game against the Netherlands.

The Yugoslav-born Vidovic walked off after one hour of practice. "I'm a bit worried," he said. "I'll see tomorrow, but now I feel pain. I worked so hard for this moment and now I may be out for Saturday." Belgium's top two strikers, Luc Nilis and Luis Oliveira, are expected to recover from minor injuries.

ملكا من اناصل

A dream of being the lion of Lyons

Gareth Southgate is ready to finally lay to rest the ghost of his Euro 96 penalty nightmare. By Adam Szreter

GARETH SOUTHGATE has probably had a recurring dream over the past few weeks. It takes place in Lyons, the quarter-final of the World Cup, England versus Germany. The game is all-square after extra time and the penalty shoot-out stands at five apiece with Germany having just missed their sixth. A volunteer is needed by England and up steps Southgate. The other players try to restrain him but there's no going back. He walks purposefully to the spot and places the ball, takes a few paces back, a short run and smashes it high into the top corner of the net past the flailing right hand of Andreas Köpcke in the German goal.

Just as the country rejoiced when Stuart Pearce made amends at Euro 96 for his miss in Italy 90, so we would, and perhaps even more so, for Southgate. Many players may not have been able to live with the memory of failure that Southgate has been obliged to cart around with

him these past two years. Their ego would have been dented beyond repair. But Southgate, fortunately, does not appear to have much of one to dent.



Southgate is consoled after his penalty miss David Ashdown

"It's not really relevant to what happens in this tournament," he said at Bisham Abbey earlier this week. "It's not something that's going to happen until the knock-out stage so I'm more focused on the other 90 or 120 minutes of the game rather than something that was 10 seconds of a 15-year career. You could go on forever but nothing I can do would replace that because the players who were involved, like Pearce, have missed out on that opportunity so I can't do anything about it."

"I've played my part in us qualifying again. I played my part in Le

not last year, so I don't feel I've anything to prove as a professional. Of course that incident is always going to rankle with me but you have to be positive and look forward and, hopefully, I'll play a big part this summer as well."

Having recovered from his ordeal at Euro 96, where he had been one of England's best players prior to the fateful spot-kick, Southgate is entitled to feel miffed by now that he is still not regarded as an automatic choice for his country - this despite the fact that only Paul Ince has played as many times for England under Glenn Hoddle and that the only qualifying match that Southgate missed, against Italy at Wembley, was the one England lost.

But a difficult season at club level for Aston Villa undermined Southgate's cause, to the point where there was even a slight doubt about his inclusion in the final 22. "I'd have been bitterly disappointed if I hadn't made it," he said. "I've been involved in every England squad now for the past three and a half years and the manager's used me in a fair number of his games. You never take it for granted, especially when you look at the people who have been left out, but I was pretty confident I would be going."

Southgate is not a certain starter against Tunisia on Monday but one theory is that Hoddle will try to stick as close as possible to the team that performed so heroically in the final qualifying match in Rome, and that would mean Southgate playing on the left of a three-man defence alongside Tony Adams and Sol Campbell. He knows there will be fierce competition from Gary Neville, Martin Keown and Rio Ferdinand, but whoever plays will have to be able to deal with the strict new Fifa guidelines concerning foul play, particularly the tackle from behind.

"Paul Durkin [England's World Cup referee] has come in and showed us videos of five or six challenges, but what he showed us was fairly black and white. It may be what was a yellow card before is a red card now but most of the tackles we saw, you'd be in trouble anyway. Maybe it will work to our advantage that we'll have nearly a week to watch other games."

There was one question that simply begged to be asked, but Southgate, quite frankly, is such a decent bloke that maybe no one dared. But just supposing it was the quarter-final, against Germany in Lyons - would he? We may not have long to wait to find out.



Gareth Southgate puts in some shooting practice during training

Adam Butler/PA

Campbell back in action for England

BY MARTIN LIPTON
in La Sane

SOL CAMPBELL, yesterday lifted a massive World Cup worry off Glenn Hoddle's shoulders when he trained for the first time in nearly a fortnight. However, Campbell's Spurs teammates Les Ferdinand, and Manchester United defender Gary Neville, were both on the missing list as Hoddle's squad made their public bow in France.

The Tottenham stopper Campbell had been a training ground absentee for 12 days since picking up the dead leg against Belgium in Morocco in England's final warm-up in international before flying to France. While the problem was at first dismissed as nothing serious, the fact that Campbell had been forced onto the sidelines for so long a period would have been a concern for the

England camp until yesterday, with their opening game against Tunisia just five days away.

The England coach's faith in the White Hart Lane man was shown in that Belgium game, as he made Campbell England's youngest captain in 35 years.

Campbell's qualifying performances in Poland and Italy showed why Hoddle considers him a key component in the side he believes is ready to claim some glory in the next five weeks. Yesterday, as England made their first open-access appearance on French soil - in front of the international media and 200 local youngsters - Campbell was back in training. The Spurs man did not play a full part in what was a relaxed and good-spirited session, working on his own under the gaze of the physiotherapist, Alan Smith. But, after walking a couple of laps

of the pitch at England's training base in this up-market Brittany resort town, the 23-year-old stepped up the pace. Running, ball-work, and some fairly vigorous fitness exercises followed, with Campbell looking ready to take a full part in today's planned session.

Whether Ferdinand and Neville will be able to do the same is less clear, and the England coach could have done without the knocks they have picked up in the last couple of days and which kept them out of action. Neville suffered a calf injury, which caused his 70th-minute substitution in England's behind-closed-doors game against the club side, Caen, on Tuesday.

Ferdinand missed out on the 1-0 win over Caen after damaging an Achilles tendon, but England officials stressed that neither injury was viewed as serious.



DIARY

THE FIRST casualty of France 98, before a ball was kicked in earnest, was Trevor Brooking. The man who, in his playing days with West Ham and England, was said by Brian Clough to "float like a butterfly and sting like one too" limped through the Stade de France in shorts yesterday sporting a nasty gash on his right shin. An over-zealous challenge in a press match, perhaps? In fact, the culprit was the will-he-stay-or-will-he-go Leicester manager, Martin O'Neill, who accidentally back-heeled his BBC colleague in the media accreditation centre. Since they haven't played against each other for 15 years, it could be the definitive late tackle.

THIRTY YEARS after the De Gaulle government tottered under the pressure of "les événements" - demonstrations, riots and strikes by students and workers - France 98 heralds the triumph of corporate capitalism. From Paris to Provence, the signs linking Coca-Cola, Canon, Fuji and their fellow sponsors to the people's game are omnipresent. But the radical spirit of '68 lives on. An anarchist group called Live for the Moment has declared itself "the official opponent of the World Cup" and staged a lunch party in a Montpelliér bar last night at which guests were asked to avoid talking about le ballon rond. A spokesperson said: "It's not that we're anti-football. We're just angry about the money being spent, the cops, and the total stupidity of it all."

De Gaulle, which for many attending the tournament is where de goal-keeper stands, may have shuffled uneasily in his grave.

THINK OF a number - let's say 3,964 - and subtract 1968. That leaves 1966 and, according to a leading Turkish football critic, the World Cup winners in that

Right: A Scotland fan puts on a cheeky display before yesterday's match



year will also come through again this time round. The power of mathematics says it must be England all the way. The number conundrum is the brainchild of Hincal Uluc, who says: "The number 3,964 is the critical figure. Germany became champions in 1974 and 1990 which added together makes 3,964. Similarly, Brazil became champions in 1970 and 1994 which again makes 3,964. As does 1978 and 1986, the two years in which Argentina were victorious."

ENGLAND AND Scotland, along with Yugoslavia, have the most experienced squads at France 98 - at least on paper - with an average 26 caps per player while Saudi Arabia are the most experienced. Their 22 boast an average of 37 caps, seven more than the USA. The oldest team is Germany with an average age of 30 while the youngest sides are Argentina, Jamaica, Japan, South Korea, Morocco and Nigeria whose squads average 26 years.

EVERYTHING STOPS for the World Cup - especially in football-crazed Haiti where contingency plans have had to be drawn up to cope with a capital city that routinely suffers 12-hour-a-day blackouts. The two million residents of Port-au-Prince are being asked to turn off their refrigerators, air conditioners and electric water pumps during matches. Haitians have adopted both Argentina and Brazil as their preferred teams and appear indifferent to Jamaica, who are only the second Caribbean team to make it to the finals after Haiti in 1974.

A SEYCHELLES hotel is serving up special snacks named after famous players. Kitchen staff are preparing Platini quiche lorraine, Roberto Baggio macaroni gratini and roast pork knuckles Franz Beckenbauer.

BRAZIL'S EARLY strike was an early blow to spread betting firm Sporting Index whose first-goal quote of 36-39 minutes tempted many punters to "sell". Cesar Sampaio's fourth-minute goal left them in profit by 32 times their stake.

TREVOR HAYLETT

McDos and don'ts of life on the Champs-Élysées

THANKS TO John Travolta in Pulp Fiction everyone in Paris now knows that a "Quarter Pounder with cheese" is called a "Royale with cheese" and here people say "Le Big Mac". What is less well known is that McDonald's, having coughed up millions for the privilege, is now the "Official Restaurant" of the World Cup. This marks some kind of breakthrough, even if only because this is the first time anyone has even thought of "McDo" (as they call it here) as a "restaurant".

The Académie française spent years trying to devise a decent French alternative to the word "hot dog" until a 10 year old finally came up with "Sauci-pain". No one ever used the word, but it was a brave shot at holding back the tide. And now McDonald's is all over the Champs-Élysées. No one had actually tried to translate "Mac" into French, but some Parisians find ironic consolation in the thought that "Un Mac" also means "pimp". Meanwhile, more up-market traditional Paris restaurants like Chez Maxime are offering special deals like four-for-the-price-of-three. But only if all 6 of you are women.

IF THEY didn't already exist, no one in their right mind would dare invent

ANDY MARTIN
AT LARGE IN FRANCE



one. But a Scottish-Brazilian fusion band do exist and I have heard them play to massive crowds outside the Parc des Princes, and I have survived. I was even reckless enough to buy one of their tapes of musical transvestism. Imagine Pelé in a kilt or Mel Gibson (in his Braveheart incarnation) doing the samba, and now translate that into bagpipes and drums, and you've got it. Whatever you think about it, it definitely beats "You'll never walk alone".

"Mac Umba" is a Scottish-isation of Macumba which is a Brazilian religion that, rather like voodoo in Haiti, is a grand intrinsic of pagan polytheism, Christianity and trance-inducing rhythms, drawing on European and African influences, and born out of colonisation slavery. "Believers in Macumba would worship the Virgin Mary, but at the

same time they are really worshipping their sea goddess," Johnny Beaver, of Mac Umba, told me. "We've dropped the religion and taken over the music and added bagpipes. This is our fusion."

There is a weird subterranean connection between Brazil and Scotland. It seems Brazilians can't get enough of "Scotland The Brave", and their "Xote" dance is - according to Beaver anyway - a derivative of Scottish reels. I nearly forgot to add that Ronaldo's family originally came from Glasgow.

IN THE devastating commercial wars that accompany the World Cup, it looks as if Nike is once again threatening victory over all-comers. Adidas have, of course, positioned themselves as the authorised World Cup suppliers, but Nike have

claimed the glamour and potency of the unauthorised niche. Shrewdly capitalising on the shortfall between supply and demand for match tickets, they established a so-called "Republic of Sport" on the wide open concrete steps of La Défense with a giant screen and attendant hoop-la.

This is the alternative World Cup venue, but what has raised eyebrows and enlisted painstaking Parisian admiration for brazen political incorrectness is their ad campaign.

The posters lyrically draw on the virile, muscular, marshall style that was taken up by both fascism and communism alike. As if Paris were in the grip of some new totalitarian mentality (which it is), the posters are emblazoned with such exhortations as "Young People Of The World, Football Is Calling You, Join Us."

A friend in marketing has been carrying out tests to gauge the impact of the rival campaigns. One notable failure has been the Mastercard posters, carrying down-beat black and white images of traumatised players on their knees, and the words "The World Cup is a celebration and sometimes a trial."

Fifty guinea pigs had the image projected in front of them and (a)



McDonald's making its mark by the Arc

David Ashdown

they were all depressed by it (b) none of them could remember what company it was supposed to be promoting. Whereas everyone knows and loves (while publicly loathing) the Nike pictures.

"This is worrying," said my psychologist friend, recalling experiments in which solid citizens roll along while inflicting extreme pain on helpless victims on the say-so of some authoritarian figure.

DOES FOOTBALL bridge the gender divide in Paris? Not according to one French artist. Joel Garrigou, who has

a video installation in the World Cup exhibition at the Musée de l'Érotisme (Museum of Erotic Art) on the Boulevard Clichy among the strip joints and peep shows. In this first in the series of exclusive highlights, I can reveal his video shows a bed, a woman, and a large photo of a bunk and goes on showing them for quite a long time.

"I don't get it," I said to my companion. "What's the connection with football?"

"That's easy," she said. "This is what women will be doing for the duration of the World Cup."

Platini warns of fear factor

MICHEL PLATINI warned yesterday that coaches could ruin the greatest football show on earth.

Platini, the former French captain who is now the vice-president of the French organising committee, said: "All the laws have been put in place so that the players can play. Strikers are going to be protected, but the only problem will be coaches who are afraid of losing and being sacked."

Platini also poured cold water on hopes of a French triumph. "France can win, but to do that the players must be at their very best and everything has to go right for them. The public are not fooled. They know France are outsiders," he added.

"Brazil are favourites but it is not always the best team who wins. In 1962 and in 1986 Brazil had the best team and did not win. There are a lot of teams here that can go the whole way. England, Yugoslavia, who probably play the best football, Holland, Spain, Argentina are all possible."

Platini also hit back vehemently at the critics who had claimed that the job of organising the World Cup was beyond him. "When I get involved in something I go all the way. For the past five years I have worked every day on the World Cup. Not for any praise, but because I wanted to take part and make it work," he added.

Mystifying dance of the vegetables

Andrew Longmore found himself lost in the opening clash of bagpipe, samba and French imagination



IT COULD never live up to the hype. By definition, opening matches never can. But that was not the point of the exercise. Yesterday was a day to see and be seen, a cross between a children's party and the Oscars, with a touch of Eurovision song contest thrown in for good measure. By the end, L'Ecluse had 101 points and Les Braziliens trois.

The football was sharp, sporadically electric when Ronaldo was involved, and the Scots played the role of bravehearts to near perfection, battling ceaselessly but losing gallantly. The World Cup needs its champions, there is a time and place for the underdog.

With a conservative estimate of two billion people tuned in, the product was too precious to offer up to such a temperamental god as sport. Fleeting, you had the impression that if they could, Fifa would choreograph the football as well as all the ceremonials. "I hope you enjoyed the first half," intoned the ringmaster on the microphone, just in case you had misplaced the right emotion. Comme ça, comme ça, as Glenn Hoddle would say.

Had the aesthetes behind the esoteric opening ceremony been granted their way, the winning goal, an inadvertent rebound off the chest of poor Tommy Boyd, would never have been allowed. Far too ugly.

The French have yet to comprehend quite what the fuss is about. They are, en masse, reluctant jingoists. L'Equipe, the French sporting daily, devoted five pages of coverage to Brazil yesterday morning, a paltry two to their own team. With supporters pocketed in two corners of the Stade de France, much of the football was played in an atmosphere more attuned to the historic basilica with which the spanking new stadium now shares its skyline.

The little mustard field of Brazilians, in particular, must have felt a long way from the emotional hot-



One man shows his support for both teams by wearing a Brazil shirt and waving a Scotland flag during the opening match of the World Cup at the Stade de France yesterday. David Ashdown

house of the Maracana, for all the promising beginning of their champions. A goal up in four minutes and you could still hear a pin drop.

In Montpellier, the Living in the Present anarchists announced themselves as the "official opponents" of the World Cup and threw a football-free party to celebrate the occasion. Over the next five weeks, the non-believers will be a global minority. Stop the World Cup, I want to get off. The trouble for World Cup past is that the official opening parties have also been largely football-free.

The presence of the Scots, swathed in kilts, flags and, incongruously, Brazil T-shirts, had already ensured a vigorous police presence in the centre of Paris the previous night - and round a highly security-conscious stadium yesterday - the fear of an outbreak of what they chillingly call here "violence Anglaise" mingling with the unspoken threat of terrorist attack. But the only discordant note was sounded by the unholy combination of bagpipe and samba drum. Some-one musical should have thought of

such a disastrous musical score at the draw all those months ago.

Other than to confirm the peculiar French fixation with animated root vegetables, quite what the global village made of the opening ceremony heaven alone knows. "The stadium is a garden, a magic garden..." there were 380 hedgehoppers, five gigantic flowers, 50 noise-makers and a whole allotment full of dancing veg. A 10-page interpretation was provided in three languages, although no one was much the wiser.

"Ladies and gentlemen, the players are ready. It is time for the final countdown." At the magic word, "tifo", the stadium was turned into a moving mosaic and, glory be, some footballers appeared, fully 15 minutes before the first whistle. For some, it must have been the longest, most static, quarter of an hour of their lives. The jeers of the Scottish fans punctuated the welcome speech of Joao Havelange, the outgoing president of Fifa, chief culprit in the Great Ticket Affair; the ire of the Brazilian crowd was

reserved for their coach, Mario Zagallo, their adulation for Ronaldo.

Without fully finding true harmony, the Brazilians worked to more complex rhythms than the Scots, like their supporters in the bars on the Champs Elysees on Tuesday night.

Without putting the finishing touch to his work, Ronaldo's pace and work-rate proved a constant threat to the Scottish defence. His one solo run and turn defied the laws of geometry. Through fear of over-commitment or a red card, Colin Hendry held off. Ronaldo exploited

the fraction of space allotted to him best three Scottish players before his wicked cross-shot was excellently saved by Jim Leighton.

These are early days for the champions; glimpses of vintage 1982 mixed with a sourer 1994. If they master the counter-point, someone will pay. But not yesterday, not in the straitjacketed atmosphere of the Stade de France. "Thank you for being with us today, Fifa and all its officials wish you all a thrilling World Cup." Now the show is over, let the football begin.

Italy versus Chile.
(Just how we like our beer.)



Nastro Azzurro would like to wish both teams good fortune and a stylish game. But, being Italy's numero uno beer, you can imagine who we hope will be frozen out at the final whistle. After all, you have to look after Numero Uno.

Peroni's Nastro Azzurro. Italy's Numero Uno Beer.

Sensini determined to banish bad memories

BY REX GOWAR

NESTOR SENSINI has seen it all in the World Cup - but the memories are not so good. A member of a select group of players in their third World Cup finals, the Argentina and Parma defender hopes the outcome will be far better than the disappointments of 1990 and 1994.

"I'm not looking at this one as a chance for revenge, but rather a new opportunity to show I'm a player capable of winning the World Cup," he said.

"The past is over. I don't think about what happened in 1990 or 1994," he said at Argentina's base at L'Ecluse, outside St Etienne in central France.

Sensini, then a Udinese player, had a torrid time in his first World Cup in Italy, starting with the surprise defeat by Cameroon on his debut in the opening game.

He did not play again until the final and had the misfortune of giving away the penalty from

which Andreas Brehme scored the only goal in Germany's victory in Rome.

Sensini would probably not even have been picked for the final, but Carlos Bilardo's 1988 champions were decimated by injuries and suspensions after an ignominious passage through to a repeat decider with the Germans.

Four years later, Argentina made a brilliant start to the finals in the United States, beating Greece 4-0 and Nigeria 2-1.

Comparing Alfio Basile's 1994 side with the present Daniel Passarella vintage, Sensini said: "Both got to the finals in good shape, but then in 1994 things happened that put us out [of the tournament]."

Then their captain, Diego Maradona, tested positive for drugs and was thrown out of the finals, leaving Argentina as a rudderless ship, and they lost 2-2 to Romania in the second round. "That team was very much an attacking team, this one is perhaps more balanced," Sensini said. "Also, we don't have Maradona."

One of just two players in the Argentine squad in his third tournament, and the only one to have taken part in a final, Sensini has always been a versatile player from his beginnings with Newell's Old Boys in Rosario.

At Parma, where he moved in 1993, Sensini usually plays in midfield and has often scored in the last two seasons, although for Argentina he has yet to get off the mark after 44 internationals.

Sensini played as an attacking right-back in a 4-4-2 formation under Basile, but now operates as last man in what is usually a three-man defence.

"I've got no problem with my position," he said. "We've been working at it for two years and now we're coming together as a team."

Another veteran, Michael Laudrup, will win his 100th cap in Denmark's World Cup opener against Saudi Arabia in Lens tomorrow - a remarkable achievement for a player who refused to play for his country for three years.

Laudrup, the team captain, becomes only the third Dane to reach the century landmark after the 1986 captain Morten Olsen (102) and goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel, who played his 100th game last Friday in a 2-1 defeat by Cameroon.

"It's a special day," acknowledged Laudrup, the last link to Denmark's scintillating 1986 finals team. "But maybe it's because, first of all, the game is so important as it's the first game in the World Cup for us, and also because we didn't do so well in the last three games." Those friendly games against Norway in April, Sweden in May and Cameroon - all ended in defeat. But the Cameroon game claims a special place in Laudrup's memories - because it was his last in Denmark before he retires after the World Cup.

"The 99th was in Denmark in the Parken, my home ground, so I don't think so much about my 100th game. But when I stop, I'll always remember the day," said Laudrup, who celebrates his 34th birthday on Monday.

QUOTES OF THE DAY

"I hope to play the game of my life" Marcello Salas, Chile striker, prior to today's match against Italy

"Football requires intelligence. It's not just a physical game."

Shoji Jo, Japanese striker, whose side face Argentina in their first game on Sunday

"Maybe sometimes we forget we are a small country, not like Italy, Spain and Germany, who have more players."

Denmark's Michael Laudrup, due to win his 100th cap against Saudi Arabia tomorrow, trying to keep expectations within proportion

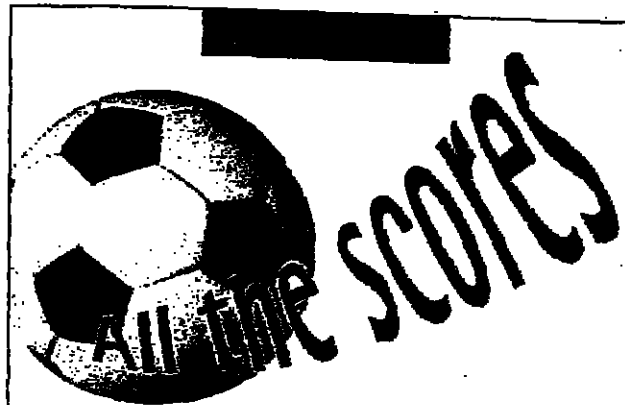
"The whole Moroccan people and their government are standing by you. Together we are with you in our prayers and are waiting for success."

Morocco's Prime Minister, Abderrhamane El Youssefi, prior to last night's match against Norway

"I'm sorry for upsetting my team-mates and the entire camp by saying we've had poor preparations"

Victor Ikpeba, Nigeria forward, apologising for some ill-chosen words to the press

"World football was the real loser by our absence" Slobodan Santrac, Yugoslavia's coach, on his side's enforced absence from the 1994 World Cup



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SPORT

WILKINS WEIGHS UP ITALY P28 • WESTWOOD ON A MISSION P24

Boyd breakheart for Scotland

BY PHIL SHAW
at Stade de France

Brazil.....2
Cesar Sampaio 4, Boyd og 73

Scotland.....1
Collins pen 38 Art: 80,000



SCOTLAND WERE condemned to their much despised traditional role in the World Cup, that of gallant losers, when a late own-goal by Tom Boyd enabled Brazil to redeem a patchy performance in an above-average opening to the tournament at Saint-Denis yesterday.

Only 17 minutes remained when the ball cannoned in off Boyd during a scramble in the six-yard box. The goal restored the lead which Cesar Sampaio's simple header had given the world champions with less than four minutes played, at which point Scotland looked as if they were in for a thrashing.

Instead, John Collins restored parity before half-time with a penalty. While Scotland could not press home the advantage they held early in the second half, they left Paris justifiably claiming that they should have had a second spot-kick in stoppage time. Dunga, on the end of the defensive wall, clearly used a hand to block Collins' free-kick. Typically for Scotland on the day, the Spanish referee - who otherwise exerted impressive control - failed to spot the captain's indiscretion.

Had he done so, the contest might have ended as explosively as it started. After a surreal and frankly silly pre-match extravaganza, Brazil did not stand on ceremony. With barely 200 seconds gone, Dunga let fly with a shot that was deflected behind by Colin Hendry.

From the corner, swung in to the near post by Bebeto, Cesar Sampaio rose in front of Craig Burley to head the most British of goals. Ironically, it was from exactly such a set-piece that Mario Zagallo, Brazil's veteran coach, had predicted Scotland would try to score.

The Scots wobbled ominously. Although they missed an instant chance to equalise, when Gordon Durie shot too hurriedly, Brazil's ascendancy was such that it seemed only a matter of time before Jim Leighton was beaten again.

Ronaldo was a peripheral figure in the early stages, but when a sublime pass by Dunga dipped into the danger area, his mere presence appeared to pressure Hendry into heading within inches of his own net.



Brazil's Cafu (left) celebrates as Tommy Boyd (right) and Jim Leighton are left in despair after Boyd's own goal gave the holders victory yesterday

David Ashdown

Leighton belied his 39 years with a diving save to keep out Roberto Carlos's swerving volley. Then, midway through the first half, France 98 had its first, mesmerising glimpse of Ronaldo in full cry. Starting with his back to goal near the touchline, he suddenly spun and headed for goal like a heat-seeking missile. Hendry and Boyd were shaken off by a drop of the shoulder before Ronaldo's right foot swung into action. Leighton, plunging to his left, saved brilliantly with one hand.

A late challenge on Dunga by Darren Jackson, earning the Celtic man the competition's first yellow card, appeared to compound the holders' moral superiority. Scotland, however, were starting to establish a presence in midfield through Collins and Paul Lambert.

Their neat, economical style contrasted sharply with the range in Brazil's passing. More than once Cafu, the nominal right-back, went scampering after a ball from the opposite flank, but Scotland's growing

assurance deservedly brought them level eight minutes before half time.

They had already demonstrated their own ability to exploit the width of the pitch when Jackson put Kevin Gallacher in behind Roberto Carlos. Junior Baiano, with a bicycle kick, cleared from Durie, yet the tactic soon gained its reward. There was little obvious danger as Durie climbed well to beat Junior Baiano. But Cesar Sampaio was sufficiently unnerved to thrust an arm across Gallacher as he moved for the loose ball.

Collins coolly placed his kick just wide of Taffarel's outstretched palm. With hindsight, it was the cue for Scotland to go for broke; Brazil's defending was slapdash at that point, the supply to Ronaldo spasmodic. A Gallacher cross had Taffarel in desperate straits after 55 minutes, but the blue shirts were strangely reluctant to attack the ball. Another move orchestrated by Lambert ended with Burley's diagonal drive thudding into the keeper's grasp. Suitably chastened, and enlivened

by the introduction of Denilson, Brazil set about wresting the initiative back. Even so, when catharsis arrived it was cloaked in good fortune. Another stunning cross-field ball by Dunga found Cafu galloping up for the first time in the second half. Stealing in ahead of Durie, he flicked the ball into Leighton's chest at point-blank range. With sickening inevitability, it hit Boyd on the shoulder and rolled tantalisingly over the line as Hendry sought vainly to keep it out. Brazil may have one foot

in the second round, but Scotland will take heart from having stopped Ronaldo scoring and face Norway in Bordeaux on Tuesday knowing that they can live with the best.

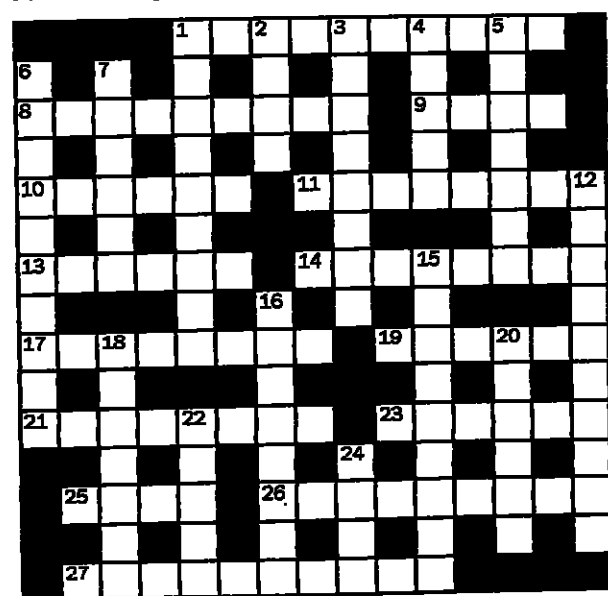
BRAZIL (4-2-3-2): Taffarel (Belizinho); Junior Baiano (Ribeiro), Roberto Carlos (Ribeiro), Dunga (Dunga), Ronaldo (Ribeiro), Cesar Sampaio (Araújo), Junior Baiano (Ribeiro), Ronaldo (Ribeiro), Ronaldo (Ribeiro), Ronaldo (Ribeiro). **SCOTLAND** (3-5-2): Leighton (Aberdeen); Caldwell (Dundee), Hendry (Blackburn), Boyd (Kilmarnock), Jackson (Aberdeen), Lambert (Aberdeen), Collins (Blackburn), Durie (Blackburn), Gallacher (Blackburn), Durie (Blackburn), Durie (Blackburn). **Referee**: J-M Garcia Aranda (Spain).

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3634, Thursday 11 June

By Spinners

Wednesday's solution



SCRAMBLE BACKWARD
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
P E S I D E N T I A L P E N
P O S S I B L E L I A N S O N
I N D I A N A
H I D D E N A U G E R I A N
E O N A E C
P R O P O S E R P E A C H
C I R I P P E
R O S E N T A M O U S E M
C U E U
R E A C T D A M N A T I O N
I G I L S N K U
G R E S S M E N A D V E N T

ACROSS

- 1 Area in which scientist is apt to be displaying eloquence after party (10)
- 8 Cooked in salt and left in pickle? (9)
- 9 Old ship, since used to carry king (4)
- 10 Engage support of group of keen listeners (6)
- 11 Support acknowledged in French port (8)
- 13 Vegetable grown for show makes maidens quarrel (10)
- 14 Terribly spoiled daughter is unbalanced (8)
- 17 Kidney secretion comprehended by former Nobel prizewinner (8)
- 19 Garrison having to keep busy (6)

DOWN

- 21 Japanese drama doesn't play well - more than one remedy? (8)
- 23 Church devoted to a saint (English), pure and undiluted (6)
- 25 Information about loch, and where it's found? (4)
- 26 Divert Royal's attention for a considerable period of time (5,4)
- 27 Flower Grandpa cultivated pinched by boy (10)
- 1 Something essentially attractive in Latin poem's sound (9)
- 2 Strip players wanted? (4)
- 3 Domestic heater painter needs help to lift over a certain height (8)

Line in song, perhaps (5)

- 4 Plant we were very angry about (7)
- 5 Fruit tree woman left in a sorry state (5-5)
- 6 Starveling destitute in Rio-alto? (6)
- 12 Pooh! Pooh! (5,5)
- 15 Before you put tea bag in, get sweetener (9)
- 16 What would make you moister - a spray? (8)
- 18 Greek character at Oxford is coming up to London minus tutor (7)
- 20 Northern province where result's unexpected (6)
- 22 Make an approach (3-2)
- 24 Signal student to put cigarette out? (4)

Denilson delivers decisive moment

THIRTEEN CENTURIES ago the French buried their kings at St Denis, yesterday they came to watch Brazil inter the Scots. They ultimately got their wish but the corpse showed so much life, and the priest fluffed so many of his lines, they ended the service cheering for the departed. A brief reprise for the "auld alliance".

Ronaldo apart, Brazil were made to look no better than half a dozen of the leading contenders for this quadrennial prize. Nervous at the back, lacking imagination in midfield and penetration in attack, they were fortunate to win.

It was not the performance they had hoped for to assuage the doubts about team selection and form and, around their base near Paris, and at home in the shanty-town favelas and beachfront apartments of Rio, the arguments will continue.

The anticipated gulf between yesterday's protagonists was summed up by the two number 19s. On the Brazilian bench sat Denilson, who joins Real Betis for £20m next month, on the Scottish was Derek Whyte, who joined Aberdeen for £350,000 last season.

Neither player started said rather more about Brazil's depth than Scotland's but, to his many detractors, it also spoke eloquently about Mario Zagallo's departure from Brazilian traditions.

To Brazilians, and the rest of the world, the *seleção* represents the soul of the game. They are the team which achieve what the rest can only aspire to. Yet Zagallo plays Dunga and

Ronaldo enhances his reputation but Brazil's substitute provides the cutting edge. By Glenn Moore

Cesar Sampaio and leaves Denilson on the bench.

The pair do for Brazil what Emmanuel Petit and Patrick Vieira do for Arsenal, and since Zagallo won the last World Cup on the same philosophy, it is hardly a surprise that he persists with it. However, the nature of Brazil's last win was accepted because it ended a 24-year hiatus. This time victory is expected in style.

Which brings us back to Denilson. He does the sort of things Brazilians are supposed to do. He runs at people with pace, drops shoulders, throws body swerves, leaves defenders trailing. He did all this when Zagallo eventually introduced him with one left-wing burst setting up the passage of play that led to Brazil's winner.

But he also played the risky passes and showy Ginola-esque backflips that Zagallo hates. The Brazilian manager likes players who keep the ball with neat passes, not ones like Denilson - and Juninho - who are prone to give it away as they attack opponents. Most coaches would agree with Zagallo. The days of Garrincha and Matthews are gone. Scotland play Craig Burley on the right flank, not Jimmy Johnstone. Yet Brazil are supposed to be different. Yesterday Denilson helped them to open up Scotland.

Rivaldo, who bears the burden of both wearing the famous No 10 shirt and, with Giovanni, keeping Denilson and Juninho out, had his moments. There were a couple of breaks and a series of shots, but he is a more muscular, less tricky player. The man who has both is, of course, Ronaldo. Though Colin Hendry and Colin Calderwood played him as well as most mortals can, the game moved on to a different plane whenever the ball went near him.

One dummy left Calderwood blundering into him and freed Rivaldo, a burst of pace startled Hendry, and there was that mazy dribble which left Hendry, Darren Jackson and Tommy Boyd floundering. He even switched to the left wing at one point and produced a step-over to savour before drilling in a text-book cross.

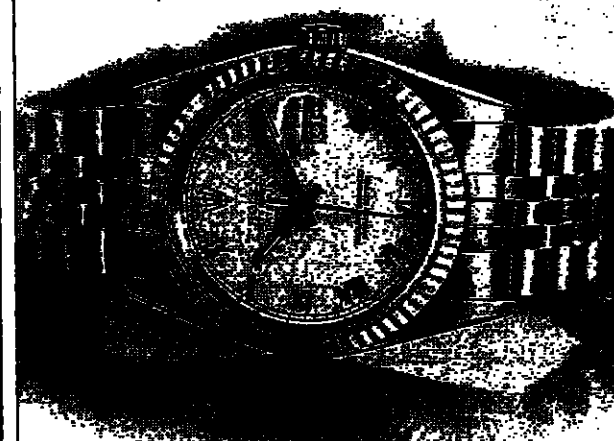
He, it appears, is ready to light up this tournament. His team look less sure-footed though they will be much happier for securing three points. Now they play Morocco with the prospect of making their second round place safe before having to face a Norway side that thumped them 4-2 last year.

Scotland also have to deal with Norway but will take confidence from their defensive discipline, attacking movement and midfield composure. They are far from dead and buried.

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THURSDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

Women refugees in the village school in Tushille, in western Kosovo
David Rose

KOSOVO

Journey to the heart of a ravaged people

BY ROBERT FISK

They were ghost towns, houses with gaping roofs and fire-scorched walls and bare rafters pointing cynically towards the heavens, inhabited by Serb special police squads, the only evidence of their Albanian owners the dirty washing still flapping on old clothes-lines, the school books strewn on the floor of a bookshop and the name of sweet store proprietor "A. Alixus" above a latticed window through which poked the muzzle of a police sub-machine gun. Wild horses galloped through the streets outside. "Terrorists were to blame," thundered Major General Slatan Lukic of the Serb interior ministry forces. He used that word, "terrorist" 65 times in nine minutes. Then I gave up counting.

Dogs, too, roamed the streets of Stari Rausic, and Gornj Stok and Decani, feral animals which slunk into the bushes and stared at the horses as they reared and fled, dazzling silky brown manes in the afternoon sunlight, past shattered villas and garages heaped with rubble. Each lane – and every third house – was now home to a clutch of purple-uniformed security police,

Kalashnikovs in their hands, staring outwards from both sides of the road, up towards the towering mountains where clouds shuffled across the peaks of the Albanian border. Other policemen lay in the broken homes, facing north, towards the Metohija plain into which the guerrillas of the Kosovo Liberation Army had vanished.

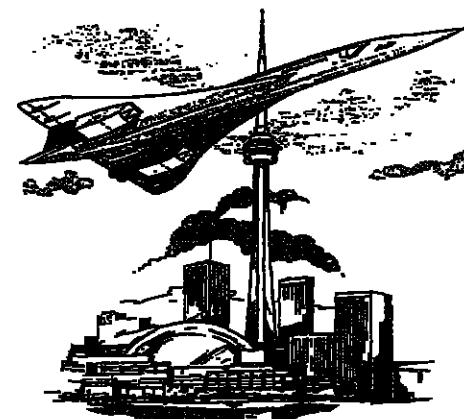
"Yes, we only hold the road and a few metres on each side," one of the Serb security men admitted quietly to me. "But we've unblocked the road and it's clear now." In the villages. He might have added. No, General Lukic insisted – a tall, plumpish man with dark eyebrows, a pale blue uniform, shoulders dazzling with gold-leaf insignia, increasingly exasperated by our questions. "No, we only fired at the houses in which the terrorists were hidden. You can see, can't you, the houses we did not have to fire at. And look, see where the terrorists dug their trenches among the homes."

There were trenches and ditches, newly dug, but not many untouched homes. It looked to me like every ethnically cleansed town I'd ever visited in Bosnia – complete with the silence, the wild dogs and the missing people. What happened in Decani?

True, a few – a very few, of the original Serb inhabitants were still there, waving cheerfully at us from behind rosebushes and thick hedges. Their homes had clearly been spared by the Serb security police. But not an Albanian resident was to be found. "The terrorists took over their homes when they blocked the roads, and they ordered the people to flee, and when they left the houses – when we were attacking – many of the terrorists set fire to the homes." Or so General Lukic would have us believe.

But ask him, or ask Mr David Gajic, special representative of the Serb Interior Ministry, in the town of Pec, what happened to all those thousands of Albanians and a kind of silence ensues. Were we ignorant, they asked, of the way in which "terrorists" operated? Did we not know that they stored arms and ammunition in civilian homes? In the hot afternoon along Serbia's new frontline yesterday, it was a lesson ill-taken. How come the shops had all been looted? How come the furniture – beds, tables, chairs, linen, fridges and televisions – were all missing from those thousands of shattered houses?

Turn to page 8



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EDUCATION
& FAST TRACK

It's time to go radio ga-ga

A FRIEND of mine has been listening to *Mastermind* on Radio 4.

"It's very good," he said. "Much better than on television. I think it was a radio idea all along. It should never have been on television."

I can't pronounce on this, as I haven't heard *Mastermind* on radio and can't remember ever seeing it much on television, but I am sure the principle is true – that some things work better on radio, some on TV. For instance, the comedy/thriller *In The Red*, which has just been going out on BBC TV, has been receiving mixed reviews as a knockabout satirical look at the current scene in politics and the BBC. I can see why it has been receiving mixed reviews as it is a bit confusing, but when it first went out on Radio 4, I



MILES KINGSTON

urges us all to tune in and turn on to the delights of radio

thought it was one of the funniest and least confusing things I had ever heard.

Of course, for television *In The Red* had to be given a starry cast, and updated, and had lots of money spent on it, but that doesn't make it as good as the radio version. It doesn't even make it as good as *In The Red* author Mark Taverer's new Radio 4 serial, *In The Chair*, going out right now, in which a serial murderer is at work again, but this time killing dentists. It's very funny about New Labour. It's bang up to date. It's sharp and it's better than what has been going out on TV under the name of *In The Red*. But because it is going out on radio, the only people who take notice are television people short of ideas to steal.

The idea that anything can be better on radio than television is, I suppose, a bit shocking to a world that has been brought up to believe that television is THE medium. But anyone who has followed Steve Coogan's career will know that Alan Partridge always worked best on radio. Anyone who listens regularly to *The News Quiz* on Radio 4 will know that it is streets ahead of *Haze I Got News For You* on television. The latter started out as a copy of *The*

News Quiz, but developed a different personality along the way in which the contestants started getting laughs by mildly insulting each other; on *The News Quiz* the sharp wits of Alan Coren, Jeremy Hardy etc, are content to say funny things.

Another example? I think it would be no exaggeration to say that the funniest show on either medium at the moment is *I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue*, Radio 4's demolition job on panel games and quiz shows. The English have always been quite good at wonderfully pointless nonsense, from Edward Lear and Lewis Carroll down to Monty Python and the Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band (has any other country ever produced anything like these?) and Humphrey Lyttellon's crew uphold the tradition wonderfully.

Television is all about pictures, we are told. I suppose that is why the news is so dreary on TV. They never have the right pictures. Of course, when the pictures are right, TV is wonderful. It is why television does natural history so well, and sport, and dancing, and ... and ... well, that's about it, really. Apart from that – and cartoons and old movies – radio does most things better. Whenever I hear that a favourite radio programme of mine is about to be transferred to TV, my heart sinks. People like *s.s.*, the wonderful Radio 4 comedy with bumbling investigator Roy Mallard (Chris Langham), is apparently going to be given the TV treatment. God help us.

Other examples? There was a series recently called *World of Pub*, which I won't even try to describe, but which did things so fast that TV would be left gaping. There was a programme recently called *Audio Diaries* which told the story of an animal rights family who adopted a veal calf as their legitimate daughter. Hilarious, satirical stuff. (Both, incidentally, directed by Jane Berthoud. I don't know who she is, but bully for her.) On TV I can see this being pretty uneasy stuff. On radio, no problem.

Last example. My ten-year-old son heard a radio production of Arnold Ridley's *The Ghost Train* last year, which he loved, so he brainwashed us last week into taking him to see the current stage version at the Bristol Old Vic. He liked that too.

"But I preferred the radio version," he said. "More exciting. More scary. Funnier, too."

Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings ... ?

THE REVIEW DAY BY DAY

MONDAY REVIEW

As well as our regular columnists, features and expanded comment pages, Network, our information technology section, moves to Monday.

TUESDAY REVIEW

An improved media section, with appointments, moves to Tuesday. Visual arts and more health pages are also Tuesday regulars

WEDNESDAY REVIEW

Fashion, midweek money pages, in addition to finance and secretarial sections (previously City+) will stay on Wednesday

THURSDAY REVIEW

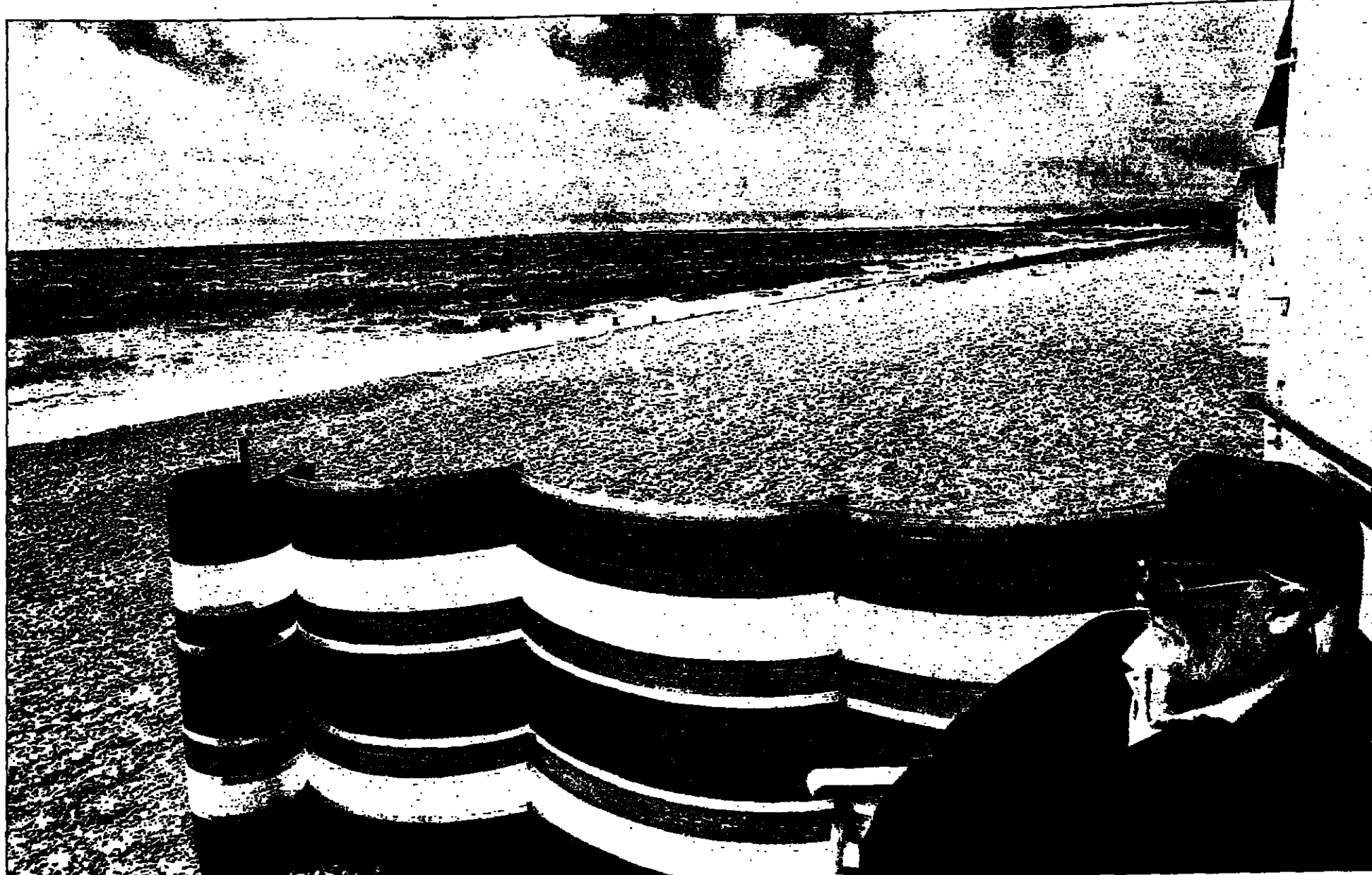
Our education section will appear as a separate tabloid section. Improved and expanded film pages now move to Thursday

FRIDAY REVIEW

The architecture and science pages now move to Friday. In addition, we will have a new law section and our music pages

THE INDEPENDENT

Bigger and better



In the third of our series on coastal towns preparing for summer, by Nikki English, an early holidaymaker takes shelter on the beach at Bognor Regis

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

Zero tolerance

Sir: Your leading article "Zero tolerance deserves a fair trial" (8 June) concludes that a "flexible" zero-tolerance approach to crime should be implemented in the UK. There is a great deal of misunderstanding about what "zero tolerance" means.

Both here and in the US innovative policing methods appear to be making progress on cutting crime and disorder. The common elements of these new approaches, whatever their name, are twofold: ensuring adequate resources are available for community policing and introducing partnerships between the police and the community.

The most famous proponent of "zero tolerance", William Bratton, former Police Commissioner of New York, summarised the problems faced before his reforms as: "Police had more and more calls and less time to investigate, less clearance and solving of crime and, perhaps most importantly, the police had less time to interact in a positive way with members of the community". His solution was to increase the number of police officers and revitalise community policing through "partnership, problem solving and prevention".

If this is what zero tolerance actually means, it can be supported. However, if it means increasingly stretched police forces implementing insensitive and potentially confrontational approaches, then I retain my reservations.

ALAN BEITH MP
(Berwick-upon-Tweed, Lib Dem)
Liberal Democrat Home Affairs Spokesman
House of Commons
London SW1

Sir: The question posed in your leading article regarding priorities when it comes to policing offensive behaviour such as dropping litter is a valid one. The example you cite of those "selling small amounts of cannabis in pubs" will strike a cord with many police officers. Whilst the success of the New York policy is widely acknowledged the requirement for it to include extra police officers should not be ignored.

A zero-tolerance programme needs the support of local authorities. Unrepaired damage attracts more damage, as do unremoved graffiti. It needs the support and commitment of the community, schools and parents. Rules concerning social behaviour must be learnt before they can be applied.

GARY LINTON
Detective Inspector, Hampshire Constabulary
Southampton

Sir: You suggest leading article, 8 June that "zero tolerance deserves a fair trial". Fairness to those accused of crimes also demands that they should be able to know if and when they are breaking the law. Even if much of the statute law we are required to obey were published, it is hard to accept that most people

without a legal training could be expected to know exactly what it means.

Until an attempt is made to ensure that all the laws which bind us are available to us in comprehensible forms, zero tolerance of those who disobey them cannot be just.

ERIC THOMPSON

London NW2

Sir: Can I assume that zero tolerance will be extended to cover the many daily acts of intimidation on our roads?

DON MATHEW
Lowestoft, Suffolk

Engineered crops

Sir: Before we swallow all the information served up by Monsanto in its glossy advertising we should reflect on past promises and mistakes. The Green Revolution (high-yielding varieties of staple foods) has increased our capacity to produce cash crops, but at a high cost to the environment. Companies who promoted high-yielding varieties in the 1970s are now saying they are using too much pesticide, and are championing genetic engineering.

In terms of feeding the poor, big technological solutions rarely work, as they have to be targeted at large growers in order to make profits. If you want to feed the world's poor the answer lies in small-farmer led technologies of soil and water conservation, access to land, and a diverse agriculture, as shown through countless development studies. This is in direct contrast to what Monsanto are offering. Genetic engineering (GE) is simply about controlling access to seed, and controlling the food we eat (they are now taking farmers to court in the US for stepping outside the complex legal contracts that bind them as GE growers).

Claims that Monsanto is seeking corporate power by selling farmers seed and pesticide are rejected as "irresponsible nonsense" by the company ("Biotech firms hit back at Charles", 9 June). The terminator gene, now owned by Monsanto, has the ability to switch off plant seed production. They describe it as follows: "It has the prospect of opening significant worldwide seed markets to the sale of transgenic technology for crops in which seed is currently saved and used in subsequent plantings." Can anyone else see the irony here, or is it just me?

MATT DUNWELL
Lower Lydbrook, Gloucestershire

Sir: As well as being the Prince of Wales, Prince Charles is an organic farmer. He should have the same right as all other farmers to express concern about developments which may affect his and his employees' livelihood (leading article, 9 June).

One of the major problems of GM crops is that the pollen can be carried anywhere by the wind, so an organic farm downwind of a field planted with GM crops would be contaminated and no longer organic. An organic farmer has a right to highlight this as a threat to his or her

business and I'm glad Prince Charles has done so.
JANEY ANTONIOU
Edgware, Middlesex

The doctors' oath

Sir: The proposal by Sir Kenneth Calman of a new version of the Hippocratic Oath, which he claims would identify "one of the crucial tensions – care for the patient versus responsibility for the community" (report, 9 June) could put doctors in an impossible position unless they can participate at the highest level in decisions about the allocation of the nation's resources to the health services and in mid-level decisions on, for example, whether to pay nurses more and NHS managers less. Otherwise, their "responsibility for resources" will simply mean they have to take more flak at the front line for decisions made by others; this is not responsibility.

And what is wrong with an oath beginning "I swear by Apollo", the god of medicine, art and light? Hippocrates' teachings are after all not that outdated: a doctor "ought to have an appearance which is distinguished. In his dress there should not be an abundance of purple ... his hair should not be too much smoothed down ... he should wear white, or nearly white, garments. He should approach the patient with moderate steps, gazing calmly at the sickbed ... he should endure peacefully the insults of the patient..." (Admonitions of Hippocrates, translated by Loren MacKinney).

MARGARET MILLER
Coventry

Sir: When are the media going to give the Hippocratic Oath a decent (pagan) burial? Your report on Sir Kenneth Calman's personal interpretation of it simply perpetuates the myth. When I qualified as a doctor in 1981, I was asked to swear nothing, but advised to keep up my defence society subscriptions. I have yet to meet a colleague who admits to practising according to Hippocrates' principles.

Non-compliance with the oath (which most of the press and public have never read) is often used as a stick to beat the medical profession. We have moved on a long way from Hippocrates, although the wheel is turning and some of his ideas are being openly debated again.

Dr T J WOODMAN

Gillingham, Kent

Sir: Oliver James's comments (Britain on the Couch, 2 June) on the need for a body to define and regulate therapists should be welcomed in a field where the gullible and the vulnerable can only too easily be preyed upon. However, he does not benefit his case by his complaint over the dominance of psychiatrists.

As members of the medical profession, psychiatrists are subject to the very regulation and control that he advocates. Moreover their psychiatric training, over and above their purely medical training, greatly exceeds that of any other mental health worker. The professional qualification, the Membership of the

Royal College of Psychiatrists, requires a knowledge of psychology in addition to all the other disciplines pertinent to mental health.

Of course these include biochemistry and neurophysiology; the human brain is after all, "flesh and blood" like the rest of the body. Whilst childhood adversity may be a potent cause of later difficulties in life, it is not the only cause of mental ill-health, which comes in many varieties and from many causes. His suggestion that psychiatrists "are doctors who have had a further training in the administration of chemicals and electricity for changing the physical state of brains" is as wide of the truth and as unhelpful as the commonly held belief that all psychiatrists are psychoanalysts.

GEOFFREY E REID

Consultant Psychiatrist

Carterton, Oxfordshire

Slovakia's reactor

Sir: Regarding your article "Slovaks defy nuclear fears" (26 May) on the current dispute between my country and Austria on the Slovak nuclear power plant in Mochovce, I am fully aware that advocating nuclear energy use after the Chernobyl disaster is a tricky business. Let me nevertheless have an honest try.

Your article mentions "Soviet-designed plant". The nuclear power plant in Mochovce was built by Russian, Czech, Slovak, German, French, US and British contractors.

You quote the negative assessment by the Austrian physicist Wolfgang Kropf who – solely as a gesture of the Slovak government's goodwill – was together with his team invited to visit Mochovce, but the only authoritative body, the International Atomic Energy Agency, has not questioned the security standards of the plant.

Your article mentions a "Chernobyl-style leak". Mochovce nuclear reactor is a WER type, which is based on an entirely different concept from the RBMK reactor used in the infamous Ukrainian plant. It is technically impossible that the WER type of reactor will "melt down" in an emergency as the Chernobyl reactor did.

IGOR SLOBODNIK

Ambassador

Embassy of Slovakia

London W8

The new liberalism

Sir: Andrew Marshall's thoughtful piece "They thought the L-word was dead and buried, but it's back" (6 June) raises the possibility of a new Progressivism arising in the current "flat and empty politics of America". It could be argued that since structural change and governmental interventionism have been eschewed by the Clinton administration, the real politics of the last few years have taken on different forms.

On the one hand, at the local level, there is a renewal of battles over school and welfare rights, assuming greater importance in the face of Washington's transfer of its responsibilities down to the states. California offers a mirror to what

may hold for the rest of the US with the recent decision to end bilingual education. But of equal importance has been the continuing strength of the cultural/moral conflict. Value politics rule when political debate becomes de-ideologised, and focused on the consensual centre ground of low taxes, support for "entitlements" and a pro-business environment. This has magnified the cultural differences between liberals and conservatives. One recent study by Alan Wolf suggests that Americans are far more tolerant than even they themselves suspected. He confirms the dislike the majority display towards politicised religion, suggesting it extends even into the southern Bible belt. Indeed, most Americans are more tolerant and non-judgmental about women's rights, civil rights and religious diversity, and adopt a "live and let live" philosophy in which they seek a middle way through life's complexities.

One obvious beneficiary of this more relaxed moral stance has been the President, lauded for his success in sustaining economic growth, while his moral behaviour is viewed as his own affair. The Progressivism of the future may turn out to be more associated with moral and social attitudes rather than an economic policy of redistribution.

RICHARD DE ZOYSA

Division of Politics

South Bank University

London SE1

IN BRIEF

Sir: Your report (5 June) that the logo for the Millennium Experience has been produced at a cost of £140,000. It is interesting to compare this with the £105 that the late Abram Games received in 1948 for his winning design, based on Britannia's head, for the Festival of Britain symbol.

ROBIN ALLINGTON

London SW16

Sir: The comments of Don Cruickshank, head of Action 2000 ("Water industry unprepared for millennium bug", 4 June), do not apply to every water company. Far from being unprepared, Thames Water has had a project in place to combat the problem since May 1995.

JOHN SEXTON

IT Director, Thames Water Utilities

Reading, Berkshire

Sir: I wonder whether other readers are concerned about the fact that while the cost of providing gas by privatised suppliers is regulated, essential safety servicing is not. In two years the maintenance of my system has risen 57 per cent; cover of my gas fire by a massive 315 per cent. British Gas are coy about the reasons for this.

H N STANLEY

Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

Sir: It has been accepted for some time now that "the polluter pays". How much longer therefore will it be before we introduce a "clearing up" levy on every piece of chewing gum sold?

STANLEY DANIELS

Stamford, Lincolnshire

هكذا من الأصل

THE INDEPENDENT

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Should we be worried by the Asian meltdown?

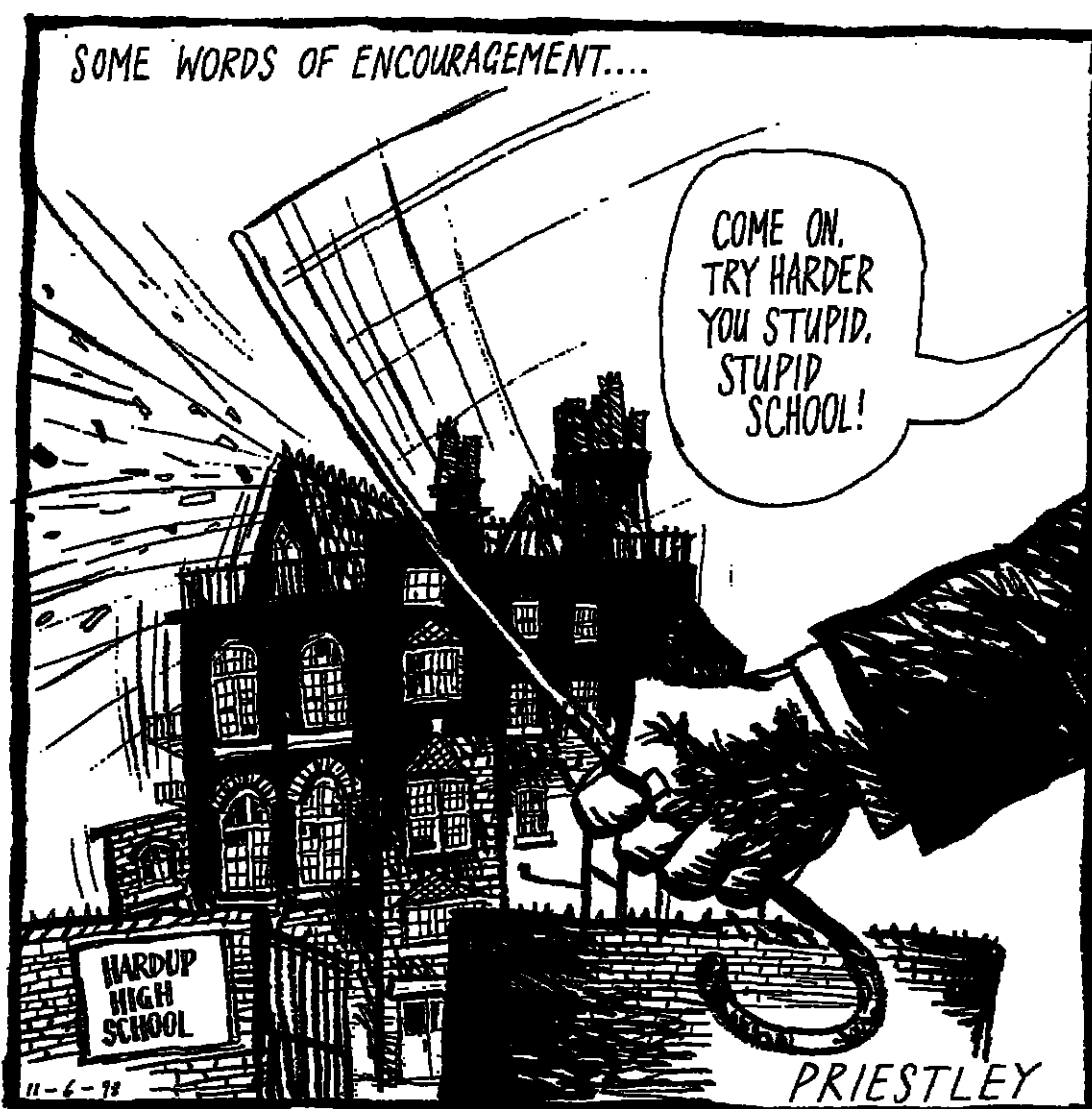
IT HAS been suggested that the solution to Japan's economic problems would be for the government to print large amounts of money and drop it from helicopters all over the country. This is not such an outlandish idea as it sounds, the laws of economics being quite as counter-intuitive as they were when John Maynard Keynes proposed filling redundant coal mines with pound notes and digging them out again. What Japan urgently needs is for Japanese consumers to start spending their money, instead of saving obsessively. Indeed, the only flaw in the helicopter solution is that most Japanese people would probably collect the money and put it under the mattress - or read mat - or stash it in foreign savings accounts.

The Japanese problem is very different both from the crises afflicting the economies of the East Asian "tigers" and from the upheaval under way in China. We tend to lump them together under the loose heading, "Asian meltdown", but should be clear about the differences. Japan has been suffering from a chronic lack of domestic demand for some time, which is only now becoming acute.

While the Asian tigers are suffering a case of burst-bubble syndrome, after many years of extremely rapid growth which sucked in increasingly unsustainable lending from foreign banks. The value of their stock markets has plunged by between 32 per cent (Philippines) and 60 per cent (Malaysia) over the past year. And China has hit a period of instability as it attempts to make another great leap forward, this time from communism to capitalism.

The immediate danger in the region is that of competitive devaluation. If China seeks to protect itself from the devalued yen by devaluing its own currency, it will put intolerable strain on the link between the Hong Kong and US dollars. That in turn will undermine confidence in the Hong Kong economy, which is so important in the opening of China to world markets. It could also trigger a downward spiral in which the holiday-maker-friendly collapse of the Indonesian rupiah and Thai baht is succeeded by deliberate devaluations - a spiral which in the past has always led to protectionism. Now that would be a serious threat not just to the region but to the rest of the world, as it would throw sand in the hidden machinery which underpins our prosperity.

There is not much we in the West can do to avoid such an outcome beyond exhortation and the restatement of



the virtues of free trade. But if it can be avoided, the outlook for all the Far Eastern economies is more optimistic than today's doom-tinted reporting might suggest. The turmoil in the markets shows all the signs of being overdone.

To that extent, the implications for Britain and Europe are limited. Despite huge publicity for Lucky Goldstar's hypothetical plant in Wales, net investment in Britain by Korea and Japan is relatively minor. Nor should we be too alarmed by the prospect of a flood of cheap Far Eastern imports: it should be remembered that the raw materials for Malaysian or Taiwanese goods have to be imported at dollar prices to these countries in the first place.

There are, though, two important geo-political

lessons for the future. One is that there is no alternative, "Asian" model of capitalism based on corporatism, lifetime employment and just-in-time delivery. The advantages of transparent financial markets, flexible labour markets and free trade are universal. The other is that transparency is not enough.

This week's report from the central bankers' club, the Bank for International Settlements, points out that Western banks had plenty of information about the Asian tigers. The most important information was that their government underwrote the liabilities of private-sector banks. What lenders lacked was "the vision to imagine crises and the will to act pre-emptively". The world's economic leaders could do worse than adopt that as their watchword.

A better criminal justice system

GENERALLY THIS newspaper approves of Jack Straw. We have long been impressed by his grasp of policy detail in areas which matter a great deal to real people but which are regarded as unglamorous. Yesterday saw the first fruits of the new approach in the Home Office: the publication of a report proposing a complete overhaul of the way witnesses are treated by courts. The news coverage so far has concentrated on the planned changes to protect rape victims. But the number of cases where a woman is cross-examined by her alleged assailant in person is minuscule, whereas thousands of families' lives are made a misery by "low-level" intimidation and feel too frightened to pursue their tormentors through the courts for fear of making things worse. It is one of Mr Straw's strengths that he understands the gritty-gritty of the criminal justice system as it operates on the ground: endless adjournments caused by incompetence; defendants, plaintiffs, witnesses and their families milling around in the same waiting rooms; witnesses not turning up because they have been intimidated.

The proposal to ban the cross-examination of rape victims except through a barrister is welcome. Automatic legal aid for a barrister should dispose of the argument that this denies the fundamental human right to defend oneself. But what will really make a difference to the 64,000 witnesses estimated to suffer some form of intimidation every year are the proposals for giving evidence by TV links or from behind screens, and for escorts and panic alarms for witnesses. More sensitive treatment of children and people with mental disabilities is also long overdue.

The important question to be asked is whether the admirable proposals in Mr Straw's report will be backed up with resources. They are not expensive in the sense that mass unemployment or aircraft carriers are expensive, and the return on public investment is great in relation to the sums spent, but the money will nevertheless have to be found.

A job for Archer

ALL RIGHT, SO he's not fit to be mayor. He has, as Margaret Thatcher once observed, a talent for getting into scrapes. Can you imagine the Labour billboards showing £2,000 in £20 notes being handed over at Victoria Station under the slogan "Is your money safe in his hands?" But our public life would be the poorer without Jeffrey Archer. Can someone not find a suitable presenter's slot on daytime television for him?

How strange - suddenly everyone wants to pay off their debts

MAASTRICHT SAID NOT more than 60 per cent of GDP; now Gordon Brown and Tony Blair say 40 per cent. Suddenly, cutting the size of the National Debt is all the rage.

A few years ago, politicians did not worry too much about increasing public borrowing. The left said that borrowing would pay for much needed investment, investment would increase growth and we would all benefit as a result. The right had greater reservations about the wisdom of this, but when push came to shove they increased borrowing as fast as anyone. The sharpest rise in UK public debt in peacetime came under the last Tory government, as the deficit widened during the early 1990s recession.

Now all is changed. A few die-hards of the left still call for more borrowing - Ken Livingstone did so in these pages yesterday - but for most of the world this is no longer a left/right issue. All over Europe, governments of left, right and centre are desperately trying to cut their debt, using the excuse of the Maastricht target but being pleased to have that discipline. In the US, both sides of Congress now support the principle of balanced budgets, which would - if they came about - lead to a gradual reduction in the proportionate size of the National Debt. Only in Japan is it thought respectable to call for a rise in government borrowing to try to kick-start the economy out of recession. But this is seen by all as a short-term measure and not a policy that could be sustained in the long-term.

Why? Why this gigantic change in global fashion? This is not just a

British thing, although to read the comment on the Brown/Blair 40 per cent target, expected to be announced next month, you might imagine it was. No, cutting the size of public debt is a gale sweeping round the world and we are caught up in it just like everyone else.

When you get a change like this there has to be a reason, and there are, I think, four: two maddeningly important ones and two absolute clunkers.

The two less important ones are the loss of faith in the quality of public-sector investment and the apparent ineffectiveness of borrowing as a counter-cyclical weapon. Not everyone accepts that the public sector is bad at making investment decisions, but the record around the world has led to a marked disenchantment. We have had nuclear power stations and tower blocks, the French have had Credit Lyonnais and Air France, the Japanese have built bridges that lead to nowhere, and so on.

Not everyone accepts that counter-cyclical fiscal policy is useless, and it probably works to some extent. But even assuming that governments make the right decisions as to timing (not something that is absolutely guaranteed), running deficits does not seem to work very well in stimulating an economy. Our own experience points this out: running a public-sector surplus in the late 1980s did little to check the boom, while the enormous deficit of the early 1990s failed to restart growth. It was cutting interest rates and getting sterling down that hauled us out of the recession.

At the moment, more public spending is being urged on Japan, but



HAMISH McRAE

Those on the left who call for increased government borrowing don't realise that, these days, such a strategy punishes the poor

seeing as the country has had six (or was it seven) fiscal packages in the last year it is hard to see what number seven or eight might do.

But on their own, I don't think either of those changes in attitude would have transformed the global mood towards government debt. There are still disagreements about the effectiveness of public investment and counter-cyclical policy.

The two absolutely devastating changes between now and 20 years ago - changes of fact, not of opinion - are what has happened to real interest rates and what is happening to the age structure of the population of the developed world.

From the 1960s to 1980, real interest rates were either low or negative. That is how we paid off the debts of the war. In 1945, UK national debt was

more than 200 per cent of GDP; but low nominal interest rates, gradually rising inflation and steady growth whittled away the debt. In effect, we stole from savers, for anyone who had invested in government debt saw the real value of their savings destroyed.

Then, around 1980, everything changed. Real interest rates, which had been negative for much of the 1970s, became very high everywhere. Inflation started to decline and has now virtually disappeared in the developed world. Borrowers had not only to pay a high real return to savers, but face the prospect of having to pay back the real capital value as well.

This is not just a financial matter. It completely changes the political dynamics. Until 1980, increasing public borrowing transferred resources from people who saved to people who benefited from public services. In so far as the savers tended to be better off than the beneficiaries from public services, borrowing transferred from richer to poorer.

Now it is the savers who are rewarded and the broad mass of taxpayers who are hit. The balance of saving undoubtedly does come from the better-off, while in practice the tax system raises money pretty equally from all the middle-income-and-above groups. So, increasing borrowing, far from transferring from richer to poorer, if anything, tends to have the opposite effect.

The other great change is demographic. Most people are now aware that one of the effects of an ageing population is that the next generation of workers will have to support a larger number of pensioners.

In the 1960s, no one needed to worry about this: the birth rate was high, the proportion of pensioners still small. Now politicians are beginning to come to terms with pension reform, for the fall in the ratio of workers to pensioners is a catastrophe for the state pension schemes. Instead of there being about seven workers to pay for each pensioner, there will be nearer two.

But there is also a profound implication for general state borrowing, for there will be fewer workers to pay interest on that too. So, running a deficit now imposes a devastating tax on children and the unborn.

Present voters may live a little better now - have slightly better services, pay a bit less tax - but our children and their children will pay the price. Put this way, running deficits becomes a moral issue: do present voters have the right to impose obligations on people who cannot yet vote?

Politicians on the Labour left who call for more borrowing do not seem to realise that they are seeking to transfer resources from poorer to richer, and from children and the unborn to the present generation of adults. Morally this is disgraceful - their only excuse would be that they are not bright enough to see the consequences of their suggestion.

But Gordon Brown and Tony Blair are. So when they announce the aim to cut public borrowing, remember that they are not speaking for the interests of the world bankers or the prosperous middle-class, but for the less well-off and for the future generations. And they deserve to be praised from the rooftops.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I fear that both today and probably for several weeks to come, all debates are going to be divided between the gentlemen in the Chamber who manage to weave a football reference into every single speech they make and those of us of the other sex who won't."

Karen Buck, MP for Regents Park and Kensington N

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Nihil est ab omni parte beatum"
(Nothing is an unmixed blessing)
Horace, Roman poet

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THE ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATE RECRUITERS

THE INDEPENDENT

THE ERA of military dictatorships in Africa is over. Aside from their pervasive failure on the continent, they detract from efforts to bring about a true African renaissance rooted in democracy and freedom. All in Africa, including the OAU whose leaders are now gathered for a summit in Burkina Faso, should urge General Abacha to face up to the reality which his predecessor sought so ruthlessly to deny. *Leader, The Cape Argus (South Africa)*

In choosing Abacha, the leadership appeared to signal that it wanted as little change as possible. Abacha, a career officer who has never held a political post, "is certainly not someone likely to lead a move toward civilian rule," said a Western analyst who asked not to be named. "At best, he might turn out to be a pragmatist who will listen to the public demands, as opposed to Abacha, who sought to crush them." *James Rupert, Washington Post (USA)*

MONITOR

THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

Nigeria after the death of President Abacha

If Nigeria's post-Abacha crop of politicians - who are, without a doubt, some of the most greedy, unprincipled characters seeking public office anywhere in Africa - do not put their self-

ish idiocies in check, the new military regime will continue to play a game of divide-and-rule. The failure or success of such a task will have to deal with the ethnic jostlings and re-

ligious prejudices within the country that have made nonsense of a truly national coalition for national democratic representation. *Chido Nwagwu, Mail & Guardian (South Africa)*

Never have Nigerians been so terrorised and rendered impotent by a singular being as they were by Abacha. He pushed Nigeria to the brink of disintegration, humiliated it as a nation, punished his opposition severely and deeply dis-

trusted his cohorts. His brutality tested Nigerians' tolerance, but most of all it exposed to the world how divided Nigerians are. At large it showed how morally bankrupt African leaders are.

The Nigerian economy is in tatters, and strained relations with Western nations critical of Abacha's tough rule have put Nigeria in the club of pariah nations. A once optimistic nation has lost hope for a future. *Chuck E Odili, Nigerianweb (Internet)*

PANDORA

WORDS SELDOM fail Sir Peter Ustinov. However, when Pandora spoke with him at the launch party for spoof film *Shit Upper Lips* on Tuesday night, the subject of contemporary British politics arose. Ustinov's usual rapier wit turned into something more akin to a verbal cough. After expressing dismay at Tony Blair's "grandstanding" during the recent Iraq crisis, the film star said that the Prime Minister had "never left public school, like all those Foreign Office people." As for the Conservative Party, they look "like prefects at my school, all born to rule". And what did Sir Peter think of William Hague, the Boy Wonder? "Nothing, nothing at all."

DORSET COUNTY Council is furious about a recent item in *magazine* *Maxim* that claims one of their facilities, Avonmouth Country Park, is a prime site for wife-swapping "swingers who fancy a picnic and a shag". The councillors told the *Western Gazette* that they find "this situation extremely distressing, particularly because Avonmouth is a facility for the family, especially children". Unfortunately, neither councils nor public parks can sue for libel, so the truth of *Maxim's* claims will have to be established out of court. So don't forget to pack your corkcreeper.

Girl power almost became something of a lot spicier when the Spice Girls invited Israeli singer Dana International (below), winner of the Eurovision song contest, to replace the departing Geri Halliwell. The offer was brokered through Sony, who have a contract with Dana and a deal to market the Spice Girls records on the Virgin label, according to Tuesday's edition of Jerusalem's *Ma'ariv* newspaper. Pandora is very disappointed by reports that transsexual bombshell Dana turned down the offer. Her manager, Ofer Nissim, said: "We think she has great career possibilities in Europe and don't see any reason to embark on such a change by joining a group, even one as successful as the Spice Girls." Would Dana's answer have been different if all Saints had called?



HE'S BEEN described as the Richard Branson of Romania, although Adrian Sarbu has yet to acquire the planes, the trains or the bridal boutiques. But, in just seven years, his Media Pro empire has acquired TV and radio stations, book and magazine publishing companies, fashion, music, travel and marketing businesses and one of the largest film studios in Eastern Europe. The bearded, genial Sarbu is a former film director and has made an astonishing documentary about the final days of the late dictator Ceausescu, which he hopes to sell to a British TV network in time for next year's 10th anniversary of the Romanian revolution. His first move? An application for membership of the Gracioso Club.

FOLLOWING IN his father Adnan Kashoggi's free-wheeling footsteps, son Hussein, 30, is planning an extravagant charity Millennium New Year's Eve party on the Pacific island of Tonga, located on the international date line. "It is the spot on earth where the day first begins," says Hussein Kashoggi, a cousin of the late Dodi Fayed. His party will be the first of "a wave of celebrations that will continue on around the world for 24 hours."

Hussein, who is managing director of the Kashoggi International arms business, hopes to attract many celebrities and wealthy party animals to his bash. The actual venue will be aboard a fleet of private yachts; tickets may cost as much as \$200,000. It's a shame that his father's financial difficulties forced him to sell off the family yacht, *Nabila*, to Donald Trump for £19m. One of the largest floating palaces on the planet, Pandora reckons it would have made a reasonable party boat.

ALAN MILBURN, Minister of State for Health, worked all last weekend to prepare for today's meeting with the British Medical Association to set new doctors' pay levels. When he asked one of his civil servants to join him in the office on Saturday and Sunday, however, the poor man looked panic-stricken. "Only if you phone up my wife and say that I'm on government business and not with some other woman," he said. With some trepidation, the Minister took this unusual but necessary pastoral chore in his stride.

Hot stuff? Sadly, I don't think so



BIDISHA
Grown-ups have fiscal fear of losing touch to assist their pursuit of terminal trendiness

ANYONE FANCY a vindaloo? I know I don't. This week, the airwaves have been besieged by the retarded bleats of Fat Les, comprising that one-trick hound, Damien Hirst, yob actor Keith Allen, whose face belongs to a man twice his size, and pretty vacant Blur bassist Alex James. *Vindaloo* is not so much a footie anthem as the sound of three ageing media geese desperate for child-style cool. Trussed up in union jack jumpers, they strain for New British "youth" credibility but the joke, like their hair, is wearing a little thin.

The only people Fat Les will impress are the "middle youth", those 30 and 40-year-olds aching to relive the virile days of teenagerish hedonism, who read style mags obsessively and don't let kids cramp their style. Champagne socialites one and all, they spend their evenings in "hip" London bars ironically knocking back the Moët before piling into their ironic Saab to visit an ironic restaurant.

The days when you simply stopped being funky at 28 are gone. Grown-ups have the fiscal might

and a burning fear of losing touch to assist their pursuit of terminal trendiness. You see them on the streets all the time, in Adidas jackets, Kangol caps and Balance trainers, record bags slung around swarthy shoulders. Except the footwear is pristine, and the bag was bought with a gold card, because these ex-ravers are now arts bosses, employed by massive com-

panies to inject a little "danger" and "creativity" into their business.

The frightening thing is that they are quite good at mixing two worlds. They know that if you can't see your feet for your gut, it's time to get off the party circuit and onto a treadmill. They've dutifully got themselves a mammoth account with NordicTrack. They eat organic food, sure, but they wouldn't say no to the occasional line of coke. When the freshest face of dance music pops up on MTV, they can't help themselves muttering "Hub, David Bowie was doing that years ago".

And, late in the night, when the split's been lit and Massive Attack's "Unfinished Sympathy" is on the stereo, you might get lucky and hear tales of their formative years in the punk era: safety-pins in sub-

terminal trendies don't want to be young again, because they are in a privileged social position. But they want to read about youth, go to its gallery openings, produce its films, write about its exploits and - if they are fortunate - occasionally they would like to screw it. Luckily, though, modily is a wonderful way of

bringing these mortgaged-up movers and shakers into line with the sexual hierarchy, where lithe is lovely and turkey-necks are a no-no. A fat, naked, old man is still a fat, naked old man whether he's recently vacated a pair of Nike Mucha Ex-pensives or some orthopedic sandals with moulded insoles. And there's nothing like a spot of impotence to put randy grandad in his place.

Even Tony Blair seems to be searching for the youth elixir, undergoing permutations in his attempt to stay interesting. We've had Camp Tony, with his dinky crop and oh-so-tender relationship with the slinky Mandybop; then we had Cheeky Chappy Tony, hamming it up with Des O'Connor. If he really wants to get down with youth culture, why can't some Westminster drugs baron employ him as a runner? Then he could communicate with genuine young people via a system of dextrous handshakes, and give the nation a boost it won't forget in a hurry. You can imagine the headlines. "Britain Goes To Work With The Shakes". "Minister Without Portfolio - Still Dancing". Just like groovy parents from

whatever era, grown-ups try a tad too hard. They now have the money to quench their thirst for coolness, but they still look sad, when attempting an entire look from a fashion mag. The parent-aged generation simply may not progress from the mindset of their mid-twenties, although they'll have amassed all the accoutrements of successful middle-classdom. What'll happen to the mid-life crisis? There'll be no more trips of self-discovery to Far Eastern countries, no more recently struck-up interests in spirituality, and no sudden hiking for younger ladies. They'll die unlightened and shallow - but at least they'll have bought that essential club remix before popping it, and the wake will be the best rave-up in months.

Why not a little decorum? When you're swaddled up to the eyes in novelty fleece, it's easy to lose your dignity. Go ahead, suck in your stomach and wear that little Ben Sherman shirt and chunky silver identity bracelet. But do be sure to slip a nice sweater over the top, dears, - this temperamental weather plays havoc with one's joints.

Poor old Jeffrey, a victim of so many misfortunes



DAVID AARONOVITCH

Jeffrey Archer wants to be a big-city mayor. Let him take his place among his true peers - Koch, Daley, Sonny Bono

SHORTAGE OF MONEY, lack of job opportunities, or even a preference for living a long way away from theatres and cinemas, may mean that many of you reading this column are not currently living in London. Well, that's no reason for you to miss out on what is becoming a local cause célèbre, namely the battle over whether or not millionaire author Jeffrey Archer, is fit to be the Conservative candidate as the capital's first elected mayor.

The London *Evening Standard* says that he is not. In fact, that newspaper has said so twice. The first time, a few weeks ago, prompted Lord Archer to reply at length on Tuesday in his own defence, answering many of the charges laid against him. But yesterday, the *Standard* repeated its dim view of Lord Archer's proclivity, arguing that "again and again he has shown an absence of judgement".

The *Times*, with a lofty perversity, has meanwhile recommended Archer to submit himself at once to the Conservative Party's Ethics and Integrity Committee (sic), despite the fact that the committee has neither been constituted nor awarded with its terms of reference. Perhaps, said *The Times*, Lord Archer could prostrate himself before the new chairman of the committee, when that person is appointed "within the next few weeks", and they could sort of take it from there.

In my view he should do no such thing. Lord Archer has my full support to add to that of (according to him) "several Shadow Cabinet members and Tory peers". For I have read all the material published recently, and my conclusion is that Archer is merely a victim of a series of accidents and misfortunes such as any of us might well experience (if not all in the same lifetime).

Nor do I say this as an admirer

of his writings. "Have you read any of the works of Jeffrey Archer?" has long been a trick question for applicants wishing to join the BBC's News directorate. If the answer is "yes", the candidate will - whatever his or her other qualifications - be sent a polite letter of rejection. (The exact reverse is true in BBC Light Entertainment.) I was able to take my place among the Paxmans and the Sissons because I have never read a word that Lord Archer has written. I gather that sex takes place in his novels, and I have no wish to contemplate the author involved in energetic, but unfragrant, research for these passages with his lovely wife, Mary.

Charge one is that he is a fantasist, who awarded his huckster father an undeserved DCM and claimed his grandad was Lord Mayor of Bristol when he wasn't. Archer replies that it was the DCM league that first suggested that pa

(rather than a fraudster in the USA and Canada), and that - for the rest - he simply believed what he was told by the family.

It's easily done, isn't it? I have for years told everybody that I am related to the man who first swam the Channel and who went over Niagara Falls in a barrel. I'm a bit hazy, but I think my mother told me about this, however, if it turns out to be romantic nonsense, does that mean that I too will be forced to book an all-day appointment with the Ethics and Integrity Committee?

Then there's the question of how Archer, who left school A-level-less, managed to get into Brasenose College, Oxford (there is, unfortunately, no Brasenose College) on a CV which claimed passes in A-level English, history and geography. And how the impression was given that he had been awarded a BSc degree from an American university, when in fact he had merely attended a summer school on campus.

Archer does not admit it, but what else was a guy supposed to do? Imagine that you had failed academically at school. Now also imagine that the world outside was so pedantic and pernickety (as, in the mid-Sixties, it was) that it regards a lack of the appropriate qualifications as an absolute brake on future progress. Why not glid the fly a little?

Let us turn to the issue of the disputed expenses, claimed while Archer worked for the United Nations Association in the late Sixties. Archer says that - over three years - he might have made £80 more than he was theoretically entitled to, that this hardly amounts to a fiddle, but is down to administrative complexity. And, of course, he is quite right. I have never managed to get the hang of the *Independent's* expenses system, and it has cost me thousands of pounds. How I have



Lord Archer: dodgy or just accident-prone? Hugh Thompson

longed for someone to do what Archer did for his colleagues at the GLC at around the same time, which was to fill in the forms for them in return for a 10 per cent commission.

On rapidly to Toronto and the shoplifting case. In 1975, Jeffrey Archer (then down on his uppers) was apprehended by store detectives in a Toronto mall apparently walking out of a store with an armful of suits. They didn't charge him. He was, he said, confused by the store layout and was looking for the shirt department when he inadvertently exited the store. Again, I have done something similar, once wandering into the food section of M&S, still clutching a pair of boxer shorts.

We turn now to the famous Coghlan case. Now, I have not myself had the experience of paying a prostitute - with whom I have not had sex - to go away. But I can see how it might come about. A distressed woman phones you out of the blue, tells you the tabloids are manufacturing a story about the pair of you, but that

this can be avoided if she can go away for a bit. Might you not...? No? Well, look, no one could possibly make it up.

And, finally, there's those pesky Anglia shares. Here's a guy worth \$0 million quid who makes a measly 70 grand for a pal on shares in a company upon whose board his wife sits. Sure, he can't quite remember who told him that they were a good bet. He says it was Sir Nicholas Lloyd and Sir Nicholas Lloyd says it wasn't. But even suppose that the *fragrant Mary* had - one morning in Grantchester - passed the hedgerow with the observation that interesting things were about down 't mill, would that really be such a scandal? Can't couples talk to each other these days? Is this Russia?

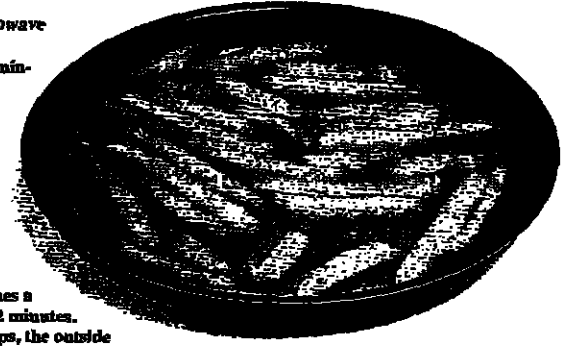
No, Archer is colourful, but then, we have decided to have an American-style city mayor. Well, the ones that I can recall are Ed Koch, Sonny Bono, Clint Eastwood and Mayor Daley. And I don't think that Jeffrey Archer sounds so very out of place in that list, do you?

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How should we listen to the young?

WHEN THINKING about it I wondered how I or someone in my position are able to listen to young people. Occasionally I am able to talk with them but I also have to recognise that they may not wish to tell me personal things, so often the conversations I have are only surface deep. I then reflected that there are actually different levels and different ways of listening.

Do we listen to what is said, can we listen to statistics, can we listen to actions? I'd like to say something about what we do with what we hear, how we can make listening worth the while of the speaker.

The people who listen at Centrepoint are the project and housing workers. This is what some young people told them.

Richard was marginalised from the family because mum and dad, both unemployed, could no longer afford to look after five children and, as he was the oldest, he was old enough to look after himself when he reached 16.

Tony was marginalised from employment because he was constantly late for work. This

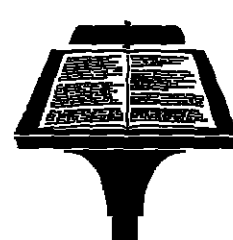
was because he was having nightmares and flashbacks about the sexual abuse he was trying to survive.

Rachael was marginalised from family life and education because, although she was resitting her GCSEs, her parents could not tolerate her behaviour, as she stayed out late at night and they did not like the friends she mixed with. They asked her to leave the family home. Being homeless meant that she had to move to a different area and so could not complete the course she had started.

Sharon was marginalised from family life because she was taken into care at the age of three. Her parents were both alcoholics and neglected her and her brother.

The theme of the last 10 years has been the importance of the family and the family looking after its own. The example of Richard is just one of many young people who ended up homeless as a direct result of the previous government's policy of cuts in benefits for 16- and 17-year-olds.

Some families already living on benefits could not afford to keep their 16- or 17-year-old any



PODIUM
VICTOR ADEBOWALE

Extract from a speech made yesterday by the chief executive of Centrepoint to the London Drug Policy Forum

longer, so they were told to go, and many ended up homeless. It was argued that there was no need for benefits as there were training schemes for such teenagers to attend.

The reality was that for some people, someone like Tony, the support he needed to enable him to undertake any

training or employment just was not there, so he failed. The second point is that there were just not enough places, and the quality of some of the training schemes was extremely poor.

Now, although welfare to work is good in principle, the 13 weeks allocated for the Gateway programme does not take into account the needs of the most marginalised and, therefore, most vulnerable young people. We would wish to see a more flexible approach to this to ensure that those who wish to work or go back to education are not marginalised again because they are not emotionally ready to take up the demands of work after 13 weeks.

If we are to develop appropriate services for young people who use drugs we have to listen to what they want. One thing that all the young people I mentioned have in common is that they all use drugs. Common use cannabis on a regular basis. They do not see their drug as a problem - they feel it is part of their life. For some young people the use of drugs can be a way of socialising, relaxing, because, as one of them said: "It's better than alcohol 'cause you don't get aggres-

sive." These young people know the difference between soft and hard drugs, many are contemptuous of hard drugs.

We see many young people who do use hard drugs, but until the reason for its use is removed, then why should they stop? Why remember the pain of being sexually or physically abused? Why have to think about not being loved, not being cared for?

If there are to be services for these people, then they must be easy to access, age-specific and address the reason for the drug use on its own.

The reality is that we live in a society where drugs are easy to get hold of - £2 for a full heroin. There are two realities of drug use. There is the side of it which is a part of the lives of young people today, that of recreation and experimentation, where what they most need is knowledge to enable them to make safe choices.

The other side is the need to provide holistic services that are easily accessed for those young people who have gone from being in control of their drug use to where the drug is in control of their lives.

هكذا فن الأصل

Scotland's big adventure

EVERY PICTURE tells a story, sang that born-again Scot, Rod Stewart, and the Scottish fans carousing in Paris speak of a country that is resurgent and confident, that has discarded its ancient chips on the shoulder and opted instead for a future of promise.

The invasion of France by the Tartan Army is illustrative of what is going on in Scotland now. Killed, with riotous tammies and fake red hair, their faces painted with the Saltire in woad, the Lion Rampant tied cloak-like round their necks, they could be extras from the movie *Braveheart*. Suddenly, it's not risible any more to wear Highland dress, but a vibrant, symbolic expression of the mood of a nation learning to feel at one with itself.

Since the devolution referendum last September, and the resounding vote in favour of a parliament in Edinburgh, Cool Caledonia has come out of the closet. The result was cathartic. At last, it seemed, Scotland had taken a decision for itself. At a stroke, Scots had boldly leapt when so often in the past they had meekly capitulated. And now the majority of the Scottish people want independence.

In the aftermath of the devolution debate, it was obvious that many people had made up their mind long before polling day. In the Scottish media, nationalist apologists are mainly mute. Prior to the referendum it was the unionists who bombarded the commentary pages. In their hearts, they surely knew something cataclysmic was happening but they were powerless to stop it and afraid almost to articulate it. Scotland had decided that now was the hour to make a move and, inexorably, it did, voting overwhelmingly for home rule.

Labour, who in alliance with the LibDems and SN, campaigned for devolution, argued that this was only way to stem the tide of nationalism and the freefall into independence. It was a debatable and very risky strategy. And, who knows, it may yet prove efficacious.

But the omens are not good. Scots voted for a parliament with tax-varying powers. They did not vote in Tony Blair's unfortunate phrase - for a parish council. They want the Edinburgh assembly to have real teeth. They don't want a puppet show or a talking shop. They want a legislative forum that makes a difference.

But little by little, Labour has demonstrated that Westminster will still hold the reins and that it intends to show the Scottish parliament who is boss.

The Scottish electorate is not oblivious to this and it has reacted by showing its displeasure with Labour in one opinion poll after another. The most recent, in the *Glasgow Herald*, earlier this week, showed that the SNP are nine points ahead of Labour in the race for seats to the Scottish parliament. A poll for *The Scotsman* last Friday reported that 52 per cent of the population is



ALAN TAYLOR

Suddenly, it's not risible to wear Highland dress - it's a vibrant expression of the mood of a nation feeling at one with itself

now happy to countenance independence, while only 42 per cent are against. No wonder Labour has been attacking the SNP with such rabid fervour.

Most alarming of all, however, for those who would preserve the Union in formaldehyde, is that young people seem to have few hang-ups about Scotland going it alone. Of those in the 18-34 age group, 63 per cent say they would vote for independence tomorrow if there was a referendum. This is the clearest indication yet that Scotland is on the cusp of entering a new era.

Quite why so many young people are so independence-minded is hard to gauge, but their enthusiasm is palpable nonetheless. Fear of the unknown, which previously was the unionists' most potent weapon, is certainly less of a factor as the Millennium approaches. Young Scots know that they are part of a world order, and that Westminster's rule is waning. They have e-mail and satellite television, cheap air travel and access to the Internet. In a word, they are more sophisticated.

Whereas the older generation of nationalists had to put up with anachronistic taunts about the National Socialism and allusions to the Nazis, the nationalists *de nos jours* regard such scaremongering with contempt. Scots, even the most ardent of nationalists, have no recent history of political violence. The ballot box is where they will vent their frustration.

That, though, is some years hence. In the meantime, Scotland is slowly beginning to redefine itself, realising that beyond Britain there is a world that appreciates things Scottish in a way that it does not appreciate things English. Too often in the past, Scotland summed itself up in negativity. It exulted in Calvinism, pessimism, penny-pinching, dourness. It could not be seen to be enjoying itself. Its culture was supped like a spoonful of cod liver oil.

Forever in the shadow of England, Scots climbed into bed with an elephant and inevitably their spirit was crushed. Measured against a more powerful nation, with more people and more clout, Scots retreated into

a perverse form of anti-Englishness that was often most prevalent among those Scots who had left Scotland to go and work in England.

This reached its apotheosis in the 1966 World Cup final, when Scots didn't know which team to cheer. For someone like myself the choice was easy since I was a Spurs fan whose only beef was that Alf Ramsey didn't pick Jimmy Greaves. Other Scots, however, were faced with a terrible dilemma. Denis Law captured the moment well when he said the possibility of England winning was so appalling he spent the afternoon playing golf.

Hopefully, a more mature attitude prevails these days. In the recent *Scotsman* poll, a majority of Scots said they would support England if, heaven forbid, Scotland were knocked out of the tournament. That was good to know. But more significantly, there is little doubt that young Scots in particular have less interest in what happens south of the border than their predecessors. Indifference to England is perhaps the most marked sign that Scots have thrown off the albatross of the 1707 Act of Union and are eager to negotiate a new kind of contract with their next-door neighbours.

Nowhere is this more obvious than in the arts. While businessmen bellyache over the profit and loss sheets, the youth of the country look to its artists, who themselves are little islands of independence. No actors are hotter than Ewan McGregor or Robert Carlyle. Peter Mullan walked off with best actor at Cannes and Alan Cumming has just won a Tony for his astonishing performance in *Cabaret* on Broadway.

Daniella Nardini is the sexiest woman on the small screen. Irvine Welsh may be the most notorious Scottish writer, but he is just one of a Hokusai wave of literary talent from Alan Warner and AL Kennedy to Candia McWilliam and James Kelman. The ambition of musicians (from the classical composer James McMillan to chart-topping Finlay Quaye), artists (from Alison Watt, who painted the Queen's portrait, to Peter Howson, who is painting Madonna's), filmmakers (*Trainspotting*, *Shallow Grave*, *Regeneration*) and other creative people is not limited to making it in London, as it may have been in the past.

For Scotsmen and women on the make at this heady time the high road does not necessarily lead south. They are the new generation's role models and their stage is the world. This is the context in which the present appetite for independence is being fuelled. It overrides party politics and politicians, the rumblings of pundits and the whisperings of historians. Independence, far from seeming outdated and dangerous, looks to many to be an awfully big adventure upon which more and more of them seem ready to embark.

The writer is managing editor of *Scotsman Publications*.



Many fans in France are wearing full Highland regalia

The Scotsman

RIGHT OF REPLY

LORD CRANBORNE



The Tory leader in the Lords defends himself against Donald Macintyre's charge that he is unwilling to engage in reform

TO JUDGE from the authority with which he writes, Mr Macintyre must have known my grandfather and, like me, talked with him for hours about House of Lords reform. Mr Macintyre will, therefore, remember that my grandfather, like me, thought there was a strong case for reform. He will also remember that my grandfather regarded the Salisbury doctrine, formulated in 1945, purely as an agreement between the Conservative leadership in the House of Lords and Lord Addison for the Labour peers.

Today we all accept that that agreement has become a convention: the House of Lords should not oppose a manifesto bill at Second Reading and, although it should try to improve and amend such Bills, it should not wreck them. My grandfather, Mr Macintyre, was far from sure that this agreement extended to constitutional bills. More than three years ago I said that I thought it should.

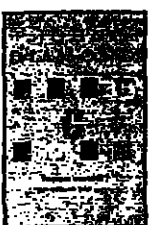
The Government in public admits that the second stage of their reforms will not happen until after the next election. In private some of them admit that this may take 20 years to happen. In political terms, therefore, it never will. Surely the Government could have used the first 18 months of this parliament to try to build a public consensus for a complete reform?

Had they done that, we in my party would have played a constructive part. If they do so now, it is not too late. The trouble is that when we told the Government of my attitude it did not suit them to believe us. They want to make the public believe that we are dying in a ditch for the hereditary peers. It is about the only issue that can unite the increasingly disaffected ranks of the Labour MPs. I am sorry Mr Macintyre is helping the Government to propagate that myth.

A novel way to cope with cancer

THURSDAY BOOK

C: BECAUSE COWARDS GET CANCER TOO
BY JOHN DIAMOND, VERMILION, £9.99



A SIMPLIFIED history of writing about illness in the 20th century might chart a line of development from illness-as-metaphor, exemplified in works such as Thomas Mann's *The Magic Mountain* and Solzhenitsyn's *Cancer Ward*, to recent accounts of illness-as-experience by journalists such as Martyn Harris, Ruth Picardie and now John Diamond. The turning point would be the publication in 1978 of Susan Sontag's *Illness As Metaphor*, which challenged the metaphorical uses made of illnesses, in particular tuberculosis and cancer, and paved the way for the current crop of experiential writing.

But actual processes are never quite so neat. W N P Barbellion's *The Journal of a Disappointed Man* and A E Ellis's *The Rack* both trace the course of an illness (respectively, multiple sclerosis and TB) experientially rather than metaphorically. They predate Sontag's famous essay, although both authors hide behind pseudonyms and adopt the fictional mode.

John Diamond's encounter with throat cancer, and the painful treatments and operations he has had to undergo, both to remove the well-healed primary tumour at the base of his tongue and to prevent the spread of the disease, will already be partly familiar to readers of *The Times*. This is journalism, not fiction, but the two are more closely related than we are generally prepared to admit. Diamond chooses to tell his story as a journey from hypochondria to real illness, from not being able to breathe as a result of a panic attack to almost choking to death from a blocked windpipe.

Another novelistic theme adds density to what seems, on the face of it, a straightforward report from the cancer ward. This is the symbolic, as well as literal, silencing of a fluent not to say facile - speaker, a representative of the chattering classes and a regular voice on the airwaves.

After the operation on his tongue, Diamond finds himself unable to speak and requires the services of a speech therapist to learn the art of talking, just as accident or stroke victims may need a physiotherapist to teach them the art of walking again. He writes, "To them the art of walking again. He writes, 'To say I lived by my voice would be overstating the case, but not by much'. He could 'no longer broadcast, of course, and was limited

even in the kind of articles he could write, since anything that wasn't about himself would involve phoning people and asking them questions.

So his professional life was seriously stunted. But what worried him more was what his honking and drooling, as he calls it, did to his self-image: 'Like a page three girl who believes that she is described entirely by her breasts, so I believe my personality to be almost entirely manifest in what I say and the way I say it, that people respond to me not because I am good or kind or have a face which encourages response, but because of the words I speak. There is part of me which believes, for instance, that I have never taken a woman to bed but that I talked her there, that I have never

got a job but that I talked my way into it.' "The fact is," he goes on, "that I am talking: talking is what I do." To be deprived of the ability to express himself in the way that gives his life meaning is a deeply painful personal experience but a rich artistic opportunity.

Where the book parts company with fiction is in the bathos of the conclusion. Diamond has dramatised himself as a character undergoing draconian treatment for cancer, but he is both too close to the experience and too uncertain of the outcome to be able to assess its impact on his life.

Yet, because he is writing a book, he feels obliged to offer some sort of summary, in which the journalistic fix of his earlier writing gives way to ponderous and banal remarks about



John Diamond lost his self with his voice

learning a lot about himself and how "the bad [side of the experience] has outweighed the good a millionfold".

There are other problems relating to the switch from the journalistic sprint to the long haul of book writing. Diamond rightly ridicules the stereotype of the brave sufferer and passionately castigates the inanities of alternative medicine (causing the *Sunday Telegraph* to invite him to contribute a weekly column on the subject). But his provocative views, while perfectly suited to the demands of the 1,000-word column, can seem a trifle shrill in book form. The reader may wonder if he is not - like the atheist obsessed with the follies of religion - already halfway down the road to Damascus.

These are, of course, literary cavils. In human terms, Diamond has written an honest and clear-eyed account of experiencing cancer as one could ask for. He approaches the subject with something of the dandyish bravado the poet Keith Douglas brought to the war in the North African desert. And that is high praise indeed.

TONY GOULD

THURSDAY POEM

THE HARBOUR WIFE
BY ROBIN ROBERTSON

The steady burning pilot's light
rides out, and is gone in the gale.

There is fear behind her eyes

as she turns, goes inside
to her tea, to the heat of the range:
its steady burning pilot light

her only light, now she is blind
in the dark from the tears in her face,
that fear behind the eyes.

Years spent waiting; waiting spent. The
night's
flare of matches, the coaxed flame,
the steady burning pilot light
of fear behind the eyes.

Our poems today and tomorrow come
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Maria Reiche

SOMETIMES a talk over coffee and cakes can change the entire direction of a life. This is what happened to the German-born and Peruvian-adopted Maria Reiche.

Maria Reiche Grosse-Neumann was born into a middle-class family in the city of Dresden in 1903, and studied mathematics. In 1932 she took the huge step of emigrating to Cuzco, the ancient Inca capital in the south of Peru, to work as the governess for the German consul's children. It was then that she first began to explore the Andes and the high desert plains of the south of the country, which made a lasting impression on her.

In 1934, she moved to the Peruvian capital, Lima, the "horrible" where she set herself up as a teacher of German. One of her first clients was an American woman, Amy Meredith, who ran a fashionable coffee shop in the capital. It was there that Maria Reiche met someone who changed her life completely, as she discovered the cause to which she was to dedicate her next 60 years.

In the late 1920s, the Peruvian archaeologist Toribio Mejía Xesspe had discovered traces of long straight lines drawn in the plains of the desert around Nazca, some 400km south of the capital. The great puzzle was as to what they might represent, a mystery that only increased when the American geographer Paul Kosok flew over them in an aeroplane and took photographs that showed from the air that many of them were in the shape of birds and animals, or geometric shapes. Who had made them, and why?

When Reiche heard from Kosok of these mysterious shapes in the desert, she knew immediately she wanted to devote herself to their study. She transferred to Nazca and set about discovering, measuring,

and clearing the lines. She described the site, which covers more than 365 square kilometres, as "a huge blackboard where giant hands have drawn clear and precise geometric designs".

She herself was regarded as almost as strange as the lines themselves. "I used to live on a flat roof or sleep out in a tent in the desert," she recalled in later life. "The locals either thought I was a spy or completely mad. Once a drunk threatened me with a stone, so I took out my sextant and pointed it at him. He ran off screaming, and the next day the local papers ran the story of a mad and armed German spy in their midst."

Gradually Reiche managed to convince the locals and many others that she was a serious scientist who had uncovered something of great importance. She and Kosok became convinced that the "Nazca lines" were an astronomical calendar representing the constellations of the southern hemisphere.

For example, Reiche interpreted the huge monkey shape she found as being an image of the Great Bear, whose movements through the heavens were important to the ancient inhabitants of Nazca for measuring time and the onset of the rainy season. In the late 1940s, Reiche published her theories on the Nazca lines in *The Mystery of the Pampas*, which attracted widespread attention to the phenomenon.

The fact that these lines only seemed to make sense from the air soon led to many fanciful conjectures, including the one popularised by Eric von Daniken that they must have been some kind of sign to extra-terrestrials. Reiche always rejected this idea, seeing it as an insult to the engineering capacities of the ancient inhabitants of Peru. Her own interpretation of the lines as an astronomical chart has how-

ever also been superseded, as they are now more frequently seen as having a ceremonial and community strengthening functions.

There can be no doubt though that Reiche's almost single-handed devotion to the study of the lines was of vital importance in saving them against the encroaching demands of man. Until late in life, she was a familiar figure in the southern plains, rushing out with her broom to sweep the lines clean, or trying to keep lorries, cars and tourists off them, or up her stepladder making yet more mathematical calculations to prove the lines were a copy of the heavens.

For the last 25 years of her life, Reiche took up residence in room 130 of the tourist hotel in Nazca, which by the 1970s had become the second most important tourist destination in Peru. Her sister Renata came to look after her as she became increasingly frail. At the age of 90, in 1993, Reiche published *Contributions to Geometry and Astronomy in Ancient Peru* which gathered together all her articles and scientific publications on the Nazca lines from over 40 years.

Although her theories fell out of fashion, Peruvians felt immense gratitude and affection towards the woman known as "the lady of the lines". In 1992 she was awarded Peruvian citizenship, one of her greatest wishes. The Nazca lines were declared part of the patrimony of humanity by the Unesco in 1994, and earlier this year the same organisation recognised Maria Reiche's importance by awarding her a special silver medal for her lifetime work.

Nick Caistor

Maria Reiche Grosse-Neumann, mathematician; born Dresden, Germany 15 May 1903; died Lima, Peru 8 June 1998.



Reiche in Nazca, 1958, showing a drawing of one of the 'Nazca lines' AP/Alejandro Balaguer

The Rev Bill Gardiner-Scott

LIKE THOUSANDS of Scots, as a young man visiting Jerusalem for the first time (in 1958) I received the warmest of welcomes at the St Andrew's Hospice. The welcome came from Bill Gardiner-Scott, who gave his life to serving the Scots Church in Jerusalem.

I was staying in Haifa with Dr and Mrs Bruno, the parents of my student friend Michael Bruno, later Governor of the Bank of Israel. Dr Bruno, a discriminating German Jew, hearing that I was going to see Gardiner-Scott in Jerusalem, said: "The Christian churches could not have a better representative in the Holy City. His example does more than any amount of talk in the cause of reconciliation between Britain and Israel after the 1948 troubles."

Gardiner-Scott was born in Bo'ness on the shores of the Firth of Forth. His father was an engine driver. His mother kept a restaurant in the Grange Pans area of Bo'ness and it was fitting that after his education at the Grange School and Edinburgh University young William should go into the catering business.

After four years he received the call and entered Edinburgh's theological New College. He was, as he put it later, "all the better for having grown up in the real world and not having gone straight from university to the priesthood". In 1936 he won a prize which was to mark a turning-point in his career—a travelling scholarship to Palestine. After the expiry of his grant he went as a ship's steward to America and to India, which strengthened a lifelong belief in Christian obligation to poor countries.

Ordained as a minister of the Church of Scotland two months before the Second World War broke out, he became an army chaplain in the Eighth Army in the Western Desert. He developed a community centre at the Gurners depot in Cairo, a welcome place for all of us troops in Sir Claude Auchinleck's army.

He was the driving force behind a weekly Scots newspaper, the *Clachan Cruck*, which lifted morale out of all proportion to the somewhat sketchy print it was. When General Montgomery relieved Auchinleck in 1942 Gardiner-Scott founded Montgomery House in Alexandria as a community centre for all ranks and Allied troops. He won the greatest respect of Montgomery's chief of staff General Sir Francis de Guingand, who whenever he came to the Parliamentary Labour Party defence group would ask after Gardiner-Scott.

At the end of the war he served as Church of Scotland Chaplain for Galilee and District during a time of enormous sensitivity. On returning home he became a senior chaplain at Scottish Command in Edinburgh and then warden of the student movement house in London. However he felt the call of serving the Church abroad and in 1950 accepted the position of Chaplain at Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand, where he remained for four years. When I asked him why he didn't stay longer he said that he felt guilty about having too cushy a job.

From 1955, with the exception of seven years in Abernethy parish in Perthshire, he gave his life to the Scottish Hospice.

Tom Dallyell

William Gardiner-Scott, minister of the church; born Bo'ness, West Lothian 23 February 1906; ordained to Ministry of Church of Scotland 1939; Warden of the Scots Church of St Andrew and Hospice Jerusalem 1955-60, 1966-73; OBE 1974; married 1938 Dorinka Glogovac (one daughter); died Jerusalem 27 May 1998.

The Very Rev William Baddeley

IN AUSTRALIA, he was known as the Racing Dean. Dashing, handsome, with upturned eyebrows that eloquently signalled his sense of the ridiculous, famous as much for his acting sisters as for his own instinct for occasion, William Baddeley seemed the epitome of the worldly West End Anglican priest. His melodious bass spoke of a rich, comfortable high-church heritage.

The truth, as often, was more complicated. Hermione and Angela Baddeley were not his sisters, but his half-sisters. His mother was Louise Bourdin, a singer, the orphaned daughter of a rich French soldier who ran away and married a young composer, William Clinton-Baddeley. But the younger William was not his son. By the time he was born, in 1914, the two had parted, and Mrs Clinton-Baddeley had bought a house in London, in Lancaster Gate, and was taking in lodgers. One day, records Hermione Baddeley, "Mum went off to a nursing home and came back with our half-brother Bill, whom she named after 'Uncle Pye' and Daddy. 'Uncle Pye' was one of the lodgers."

William Pye Baddeley was not brought up by his mother. He was given away, in accordance with the brutal manners of the day, to be brought up by a family in Fulham. He was not privately educated either, as were his half-sisters, but attended the local school, and might have become a pharmacist had he not drifted into the orbit of the Church of St John the Divine in Kennington. There Cyril Eastaugh (later Bishop



of Peterborough) recognised his talents. Eastaugh took him under his wing and arranged for him to go to Tatterford, in Norfolk, a school which crammed clever working-class boys for university. Baddeley won a place at Durham and, following his vocation, his career at last found a conventional direction: St Chad's College, Durham, and then Cuddesdon, Oxford.

He was ordained in 1941 and had two wartime curacies in London, first at St Luke's, Camberwell, in 1941-44, then at St Anne's, Wandsworth, in 1944-46. Worn out by his work in these south London parishes, he was prescribed country rest by his doctor, and took himself to Suffolk, where he met Shirley Wyatt, whose father had retired from the Army to Woodbridge, and in 1947 they married. After a further curacy in Bournemouth, he was

awarded the prize London parish of St Pancras, near Euston Station. A daughter, Frances, followed, and for the first time he had a real family.

Bill Baddeley's church reputation was based on his three main jobs: St Pancras, from 1949 to 1958; Brisbane, where he was Dean, from 1958 to 1967; and St James's, Piccadilly, where he spent 13 years as Rector, from 1967 to 1980. In both his London parishes, the one centred on raffish north Fitzrovia, the other more smart shops than residents, he had to wrestle as much with problems of fabric as with those of compelling a post-war urban congregation. St Pancras was a Greek Revival church finished in 1822, the most expensive church of its time, and by 1949 in serious disrepair. St James's, Piccadilly, built in 1676 by Christopher Wren, had been bombed in the war. Only in Baddeley's time, with the replacement of the spire (by a fibreglass replica), was restoration completed.

Baddeley had to close St Pancras and raise £50,000 to make it serviceable again. It is a magnificent building, as is St James's, a church redolent of London history (here, in the Grilling Gibbons font, William Blake was christened). Wren intended St James's with its airy galleries, to be an efficient "auditory" church; that any of the 2,000 possible congregants should be able to hear their preacher.

Baddeley had no difficulty in either London parish, or in Australia, of making himself heard. He had projection; a theatrical concentration which was in his genes. He also had a seriousness which stemmed, per-

haps, from his difficult background. His combination of *gracitas* with *lewis* marked him out amongst Anglican clergy.

When in 1958 he went to Brisbane (William Wand, the Bishop of London, had recommended him to his successor as Archbishop of Brisbane, Reginald Halse), he immediately won himself a reputation. He went to the races and backed six out of seven winners. (Later he attended in full clerical garb, but won only three.) Puritan newspapers were outraged, but the Australian public responded, as had his English audiences, to his *joie de vivre*. He criticised the government's ban of *Lady Chatterley's Lover* as belittling the intelligence of Australians. He defended Sunday cinema opening, deploring "this business of inflicting gloom on a Sunday" as "not a good advertisement for Christianity". He declared that the clergy broke the Ten Commandments if they did not take a full day off a week. He appeared on television quiz programmes, he was active in the arts. Priests should circulate, he argued; Christ himself "liked to be among the people".

Bill Baddeley relished his public life, both in Australia, where he is still fondly remembered, and in London, where he enjoyed many decorative sinecures, such as Chaplain to the Royal Academy across the road from his church. He was outgoing, spoke powerfully ("There was nothing sedating about his sermons," recalls the Australian politician Sir James Killen), was a performer; a fine singer; a natural pianist. But he was a surprisingly private man; he

protested shyness, even insecurity; he had a developed spiritual side. His own spiritual director, Reginald Somerset-Ward, thought of him initially as a contemplative.

He bought paintings, he was devoted to the, essentially passive, art of photography. He didn't drive; he couldn't cook an egg. There was much of the child about him. People loved Bill Baddeley for that. His flamboyance was studied, his appeal for approval definitely boyish. His zest for life was not only attractive, it improved the moment. He was a man who raised your spirits. There was about him something inspiring.

James Fergusson

William Baddeley's work at St James's, Piccadilly, was the zenith of his priesthood, writes the Rev Dr Martin Israel. Indeed, he played no small part in its contribution to the spiritual life of London.

He was a forceful speaker with strong, eloquent convictions, and made many people aware of things more lasting than the commerce of daily life. A popular part of his ministry of St James's Church was the Lent Lectures, at which numerous distinguished people preached. Baddeley's churchmanship was broadly Tractarian, but inclusive and ecumenical. In this respect he was an early pioneer, and Cardinal Heenan was a lecturer at one Lent series.

Baddeley was a man of wide interests. While in St Pancras he was Chaplain to the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital and St Luke's Hostel, and later to St Martin's Hospital, Brisbane. He was keenly interested in acting, having no little

acting skill himself, a trait that came out brilliantly in his preaching. He was President of the Brisbane Repertory Theatre from 1961 to 1964 and the Queensland University Dramatic Society from 1961 to 1967 and Director of the Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust from 1963 to 1967. He was a member of the Council of Management of the Friends of the Royal Academy from 1978 until his death, a Vice-President of the Cancer Relief Appeal from 1977 and a Life Governor of the Thomas Coram Foundation from 1955.

He was Chairman of the Association for Promoting Retreats from 1967 to 1980. He also chaired the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children from 1968 to 1992, after he which he became Honorary Consultant.

On his retirement from St James's Bill and Shirley Baddeley went to live in Woodbridge, where they enjoyed 18 happy years together. He died, appropriately, on the Feast of Pentecost.

William Pye Baddeley, priest; born London 20 March 1914; ordained deacon 1941, priest 1942; Vicar of St Pancras 1949-58; Dean of Brisbane 1958-67 (Dean Emeritus 1981-98); Rector of St James's, Piccadilly 1967-80; Chairman, Association for Promoting Retreats 1967-80; Chaplain to Royal Academy of Arts 1968-80; Chairman, Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children 1968-92; Rural Dean of Westminster 1974-79; Visiting Chaplain, Westminster Abbey 1980-98; married 1947 Shirley Wyatt (one daughter); died Ipswich 31 May 1998.

Jeanette Nolan

JEANETTE NOLAN was a versatile character actress whose 70-year career embraced stage, film, television and notably radio. For many years she was a stalwart of the airwaves, performing in comedy, drama, soap operas and documentaries and is generally considered one of the greatest of all radio actresses.

Her voice was later used by Disney in animation features. She was in countless television series, including two in which she starred opposite her husband John McIntyre, *Wagon Train* and *The Virginian*, and gave memorable screen portrayals in Orson Welles's *Macbeth* and Fritz Lang's study of urban corruption *The Big Heat*, in which she presented a chilling portrait of controlled malevolence.

Born in Los Angeles in 1911, she gained acting roles at the Pasadena Community Playhouse as a teenager, and moved into radio while still a student at Los Angeles City College. One of her earliest assignments, *Omara Khayyam* (1932),

in which she was heard as one of the Hindu girls, was the first transcontinental broadcast from California, an event Nolan later described as "overwhelming". She became a regular member of the radio series *Hollywood Hotel* and soon her versatility, her range of accents and her flair for creating a rounded character through the medium of sound made her one of American radio's top character players.

In 1935 she married John McIntyre, who had also made his name on radio, notably as the narrator of the *March of Time* series, a programme of newsreel-style enactments of current events, in which Nolan played Eleanor Roosevelt, Queen Marie of Romania and the Duchess of Windsor. Other series in which she had regular roles included *Young Doctor Malone* (1939-40), *Cavalcade of America* (1940-41), in one episode of which she played Ann Rutledge to McIntyre's Abraham Lincoln, *One Man's Family* (1947-50) and *Gunslinger* (1952-59), plus such prestigious series as *Lux Theatre of*

the Air, *Suspense* and *Dramat*. "Radio acting has nothing to do with looks," said Nolan. "It's all to do with imagination, and a deep creative germ that you are born with."

Another regular on *The March of Time* was Orson Welles, who used Nolan later on his own mystery show *The Shadow* and his anthology series, *Campbell Playhouse* and *Mercury Theatre of the Air*. When Welles was casting his screen version of *Macbeth* (1947) and was unable to secure Agnes Moorehead, his first choice for Lady Macbeth, he cast Nolan in her film debut, realising that his decision to have the whole piece acted in a Scottish burr would prove no problem for an actress with such a superb flair for dialects. Though Welles and Nolan are alleged to have had an affair at this time, Nolan's marriage to McIntyre remained a happy one, and the following year her son Tim was born.

Nolan played opposite Welles in a stage production of *Macbeth* at the Utah Festival in Salt Lake City prior to the filming, which was done in only 21 days. (On the film's release in 1948, the studio re-dubbed much of the dialogue when audiences complained that they could not understand the strong brogue.) Nolan's next film was a more commercial one, MGM's biography of the song-writing team Rodgers and Hart, *Words and Music* (1948), in which Nolan was the affectionate mother of the lyricist Hart (played by Mickey Rooney).

Nolan's subsequent films were to include a high number of westerns, including *Saddle Tramp* (1950), *Hangman's Knot* (1952), *A Lawless Street* (1955), *Tribute to a Bad Man* (1956), *The Seventh Cavalry* (1956) and *The Guns of Fort Petticoat* (1957), with the actress often seen as stoic frontierswomen, but her finest role was in *The Big Heat* (1953), Lang's uncompromising and scarily nihilistic film noir. Nolan is the outwardly grieving widow of a police officer who has killed himself because, she says, he had a terminal illness. She is in fact black-mailing the city crime boss for a



fortune, by withholding an incriminating note written by her husband confessing his involvement in racketeering. Her eventual death at the hands of the gangster's moll Gloria Grahame is preceded by a memorable confrontation in which the icily cool widow, in her austere mansion, is told by Grahame that, be-

neath their mink coats, they are much the same.

Later films included two fine performances for John Ford: in *Two Rode Together* (1961), as the hysterical mother of a kidnapped child; and as a feisty frontierswoman in *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* (1962). For Walt Disney, Nolan and her husband lent their voices to *The Rescuers* (1977) and *The Fox and the Hound* (1981).

After her television debut on a *Four Star Playhouse* drama in 1953, Nolan became as prolific on television as she had been on radio, with guest spots on such shows as *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*, *Perry Mason*, *I-Spy*, *Charlie's Angels*, *Hart to Hart*, *Golden Girls* and *Cagney and Lacey*. Her first regular series was *Hotel de Paree* (1959-60). She was a member of the repertory company on *The Richard Boone Show* (1963-64) and from 1967 to 1970 she played the wife of her real-life husband in *The Virginian*. In 1974 she had her own series, *Dirty Sally*, a spin-off from the series *Gunslinger*.

Nolan's son Tim McIntyre, a fine actor who was acclaimed for his superb portrayal of the disc jockey Alan Freed in *American Hot Wax* (1971), died of heart failure in 1986 after a battle with alcoholism. John McIntyre died in 1991, but Nolan continued to work and make public appearances.

I met her just four years ago at a radio convention in New Jersey where, with other survivors of radio's golden age, she re-enacted a vintage broadcast and reminisced warmly about her varied career. She still lived on the 640-acre ranch in Yak, Montana, which she and her husband had bought many years ago, and recently she completed a role as Robert Redford's mother in *The Horse Whisperer*, which was filmed near her home.

Tom Vallance

Jeanette Nolan, actress; born Los Angeles, California 30 December 1911; married 1935 John McIntyre (died 1991; one son deceased); died Los Angeles 5 June 1998.

Jackie McGlew

ENGLAND'S PRESENT tourists, South Africa, will mourn the death of one of their country's great cricketers. Jackie McGlew personified most of his countrymen's characteristics, notably concentration, determination, resilience, endurance and an invincibility of spirit, no matter what the result on the field.

A short, stocky right-hander who captained Natal for many years, he had such an outstanding defensive technique from his youth that he became inevitably an opening batsman. His range of stroke would have surprised many who might have seen him in one of those obscure innings that did so much to anchor the South African order in the 1950s. He also embellished the reputation of his nation with brilliant fielding, notably in the covers, setting the standards for, among others, Colin Bland and Jonty Rhodes.

He first appeared in England in 1951, aged 22, scoring 1,002 runs on the tour at an average of 38. English tours were hard work, the South Africans playing 26 matches, including five Tests, at a time when county clubs deemed their visit a privilege and fielded their strongest sides and did their very best to win. Tourists were spared limited overs cricket.

McGlew said the 1951 *Playfair* annual - which, incidentally, asked in its major feature "What's wrong with English cricket?" - "was slow to acclimatise and often at sea against the moving ball" but was also named as one of South Africa's players for the future and "outstanding in the deep field".

Having survived sleet in Bradford, South Africa then won the first Test, McGlew making 40 and five on debut, but lost the next two, McGlew being dropped after two low scores at Lord's. He recovered his place for the later tours of Australia and New Zealand, scoring 255 not out, then a national record, in Wellington, returning to England in 1956 a much more experienced and established player.

That year he was part of an outstanding South African team, under Jack Cheetham's captaincy, that included four world-class contenders in the fast bowlers Peter Heine and Neil Adcock, the all-rounder Trevor Goddard and the off-spinner Hughie Tayfield. England, too, had abundant pace in Frank Tyson, Fred Trueman and Brian Statham.

Cheetham's team were wrecked by Tyson in the first Test, and lost their captain with a chipped elbow from Trueman's last ball of the third day at Lord's. McGlew became captain for the next two

Tests, South Africa being 2-0 down. He scored 104 not out at Old Trafford and 133 at Headingley, for South Africa to level the series with all to play for at the Oval.

John Arlott wrote: "Few defensive batsmen of recent years have so captured the imagination as McGlew, resistance bristling out of his small, hard-trained frame as he played every ball as if for his life." But this was the era of Jim Laker and Tony Lock, the two great Surrey spinners, and when South Africa were required to make 244 to win, the pundits pointed out that no team had passed 200 in a fourth innings at Kennington that year. South Africa lost by 92.

McGlew had a magnificent tour, scoring 1,871 runs, including five centuries at an average of 58. Two years later, in 1957, at home against the visiting Australians, he made his reputation as one of the game's great resistors: in the third Test at Durban, South Africa lost their first two wickets for 28, whereupon McGlew and John Waite raised 231 and "Jackie" passed into history.

His first 50, against an attack in-

'Few defensive players have so captured the imagination,' wrote John Arlott. 'He played every ball as if for his life'

cluding Alan Davidson and Richie Benaud, took five hours 13 minutes; when he was eventually caught behind, he had batted for nine hours and five minutes for 105, the slowest century in history until surpassed by Mudassar Nazar's 114 in 576 minutes against England in Lahore in 1978. "Utter single-mindedness" was *Playfair's* comment on McGlew's patience.

By 1960, McGlew was South Africa's appointed captain and would have been surprised, like his team, by a demonstration on their arrival at Heathrow that year, the first hint of a storm to come. Many British ex-servicemen, especially those who had sampled Cape Town hospitality during the Second World War, were appalled at the demonstration, protesting that the now-famous sports



centre at Lilleshall in Shropshire had been paid for by the South African Aid to Britain Fund.

The 1960 tour was McGlew's last, and was bedevilled by a "chucking" controversy. His new young fast bowler Geoff Griffin was no-balled 11 times at Lord's and, although he also took a hat-trick, his career was ended. England won a chequered series 3-0, two matches being drawn. McGlew lost his wicket four times to Statham and three times to Trueman and had little luck; at Trent Bridge he was run out after colliding with the bowler (Alan Moss) and, although the England captain Colin Cowdrey recalled him, the umpire, Charlie Elliott, refused to alter his decision. McGlew still managed to pass 1,000 runs on the tour and, Tests apart, his team

lost only two other matches. In Arlott's opinion, "The tour was the unhappiest ever made by a party of overseas cricketers in England."

McGlew continued playing domestic cricket until 1967, scoring 12,170 runs in all, at an average of 45, including 27 centuries. He also took 35 wickets with his occasional leg-breaks and googlies at an average of 26. Bowling for Natal against Transvaal in 1962-63 he took a hat-trick, finishing one innings and taking another with the first ball of the second yet at no other time in his career did he take more than two wickets in an innings.

Derek Hodgson

Derrick John McGlew, cricketer: born Pietermaritzburg, South Africa 11 March 1929; died Pretoria 8 June 1998.

LITERATURE NOTES

TIMOTHY MOWL

The English Caliph who never made it

William Beckford (1709-1770) could have become the first great English Romantic. Instead he wrecked his literary career by an involvement with a Westminster schoolboy. Here we examine the writer's one and only novel.



Beckford painted by John Hoppner

I CANNOT make up my mind whether *Vathek* was a journal, an autobiography or a prefiguring of Beckford's later life. Elements of all three, probably with the added complication that, strictly speaking, Beckford did not write the book himself. He roughed it out in less than perfect French and was then too idle to translate it into English; so he let Samuel Henley, a middle-aged clergyman, do the Englishing for him. Likewise the French text was rewritten by Beckford's physician-companion, Dr François Verdelin.

Beckford had just turned 21 when *Vathek* got itself written. He had been platonically but rapturously in love with William Courtenay, a Westminster schoolboy and the future Earl of Devon, for two years. Beckford himself had missed out on public school, and found the whole experience exhilarating and novel. During the winter of 1781 he was staying in his London house to be near Courtenay whenever the beaks let the boys loose.

That Christmas Beckford arranged a house party at Fonthill Splendens, his family's lumbering Palladian mansion. William was one of the guests but, contrary to Beckford's riotous over-writing of the event 50 years later, it was all quite respectable. Two clergymen were there, Henley being one of them, and two of Beckford's young schoolboy cousins, plus a whole pack of young women interested in the Beckford millions. They had hired Count Philippe Jacques de Louthembourg to give them a preview of his "Ediphusikon", an affair of coloured lights, gauzes and music that would take London by storm in the next season.

Henley took his host aside and the two men hammered out a plot for *Vathek* which included every obsession Beckford had ever had and several others that were on the way up. The book emerged in two halves over the next six months. Part one covered the Caliph Vathek's fun time in his capital city. Beckford in real life produced pastoral opera, with a cast of well-bred

children. The Caliph in the book arranged nude gymnastics for his courtiers' children, then pushed the kiddies over a precipice where a Giaour was waiting to devour them: the parallels require no explanation.

Soon after this Beckford set off for Naples where his cousin by marriage and moral mentor, the Welsh Lady Hamilton, presided at our embassy. Meanwhile the Caliph in the book captures the Talismans of Soliman in the caverns of Eblis, the young, handsome Lord of Evil. Both expeditions end in disaster. Beckford caught malaria: as did his musician, John Burton, who died cursing his employer. In Naples Lady Hamilton expired of tuberculosis, and Beckford hurried home. The Caliph Vathek has an even worse time. Arriving at the Halls of Eblis he finds it crammed with the undead Ante-Adamite Solimons, and Eblis gloating over the con trick. Vathek's heart bursts into flames and he lives in eternal torment for his sins.

Worse lay ahead for the real Beckford. The yellow press seized hold of the Courtenay scandal. Outed, Beckford fled to Switzerland with his wife. When she died in childbirth, his mother forbade any contact with his two baby daughters. In a last, bitter stroke, Henley published *Vathek* in a pirated edition with full and convincing notes, but pretended it was a real Arabian story, nothing to do with Beckford. Poetic justice? Or was it half-truth?

Timothy Mowl is author of *William Beckford: composing for Mozart* (John Murray, £22)

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BIRTHS

BRANNIGAN: On 27 May, to Denise (née Kelly) and Malachi, a son, Cian James, a brother for Daragh, Chloë, galore, Thank God!

DEATHS

FADDE Olga, born Prague 10 April 1911, died peacefully, Royal Free Hospital, 10 June 1998. Funeral at Golders Green West Chapel, Monday 15 June, 11am. Donations to British Heart Foundation.

FRANCIS: Dede Joan, of Redham, Norfolk, passed away peacefully at home on 4 June. The funeral service will be held at St Peter's Church, Swanton, Norfolk, at 2.30pm on Friday 12 June. Family flowers only. Donations to the Woodland Trust, c/o Mr T. Moll, Fleur Funeral Services, 33 The Green, Fresthorpe, Norwich NR13 3NY.

CITY OF LONDON SOLICITORS' COMPANY

The following have been elected officers of the City of London Solicitors' Company: Master, Mr R.D. Fox; Senior Warden, Mr M.R. Matthews; Junior Warden, Mr R.G. Finch.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen attends an evening performance of Beating Retreat on Horse Guards, London SW1, hosted by the Royal Regiment of Artillery. The Duke of Edinburgh, Founder and Chairman, chairs a meeting and gives a lunch for the Trustees of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association at Buck-

BIRTHDAYS

Miss Diana Armfield, painter, 78; Mr John Aspinall, casino and zoo owner, 72; Mr James Bostock, painter and engraver, 81; The Rev Dr Richard Burridge, Dean, King's College, London, 43; Mr Michael Cacyannis, film and stage director, 76; Lord Cameron of Lochbroom, a Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, former Lord Advocate, 67; Miss Lynsey de Paul, singer and composer, 48; Mr John Dyson, cricketer, 44; Sir Anthony Evans, a Lord Justice of Appeal, 64; Sir Marcus Fox, former MP, 71; Mr Athol Fugard, actor, director and playwright, 66; Vice-Admiral Sir Robert Gerken, former chairman, Plymouth Development Corporation, 66; Dame Beryl Grey, former prima ballerina, 71; Mr Dundas Hamilton, former chairman, Wates City of London Properties, 73; Mrs Rachael Heyhoe Flint, journalist, broadcaster and cricketer, 59; Mr Alan Howarth MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Education and Employment, 54; Mr Hugh Laurie, actor, 53; Mr Paul Mellon, former president, Washington National Gallery of Art, 91; Mr Michael Meyer, novelist and translator, 77; Miss Jenny Pitman, racehorse trainer, 52; Mr John Shakespeare, diplo-

mat, 68; Mr Jackie Stewart, champion racing driver, 59; Mr Richard Todd, actor, 79; Sir Gerard Vaughan, former government minister, 75; Mr Gene Wilder, actor, 63; General Sir Michael Wilkes, Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Jersey, 58.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Ben Jonson, playwright, 1572; George Withers, poet and pamphleteer, 1588; John Constable, painter, 1776; Habi Knight Browne ("Phiz"), artist and illustrator, 1815; Mariano José Maria Bernardo Fortuny, painter, 1838; Carl von Linde, chemist and engineer, 1842; Dame Millicent Garrett Fawcett, women's rights campaigner, 1847; Mrs Humphry Ward (Mary Augusta Arnold), novelist, 1851; Richard Strauss, composer, 1864; Azorin (José Martínez Ruiz), novelist, 1874; Alfred Louis Kroeber, anthropologist, 1876; Bert Lee, popular composer, 1880; Nikolai Alexandrovich Bulgankin, Russian leader, 1895; Kawabata Yasunari, novelist, 1899. Deaths: James III, King of Scotland, assassinated 1483; Sir Kenneth Digby, diplomat and writer, 1665; Sir John Franklin, explorer, 1847; Clemens Weasel Lothar, Prince Metternich-Winneburg, statesman, 1859; Sir James Brooke, Raja of Sarawak, 1868; Federico Madrazo y Kuntz, painter, 1894; Otto Eckmann, painter, 1902; King Alexander and Queen Draga of Serbia, assassinated at Belgrade 1903; Stephen Lucius Gwynn, novelist, poet and MP, 1950; Sir Frank (François Guillaume) Brangwyn, artist, 1956; Alexander Feodorevich Kerensky, Russian social democratic leader, 1970; John Wayne (Marion Michael Morrison), actor, 1979. On this day: James IV became King of Scotland, 1488; King Henry VIII was married to Catherine of Aragon, 1509; the Covenanters were victorious at the Battle of Drumclog against the Royal troops under Claverhouse, 1679; James, Duke of Monmouth, landed at Lyme Regis, Dorset, to seize the British throne, 1685; George II was proclaimed King of Great Britain, 1727; all members perished in the expedition under Sir John Franklin to find the North West Passage, 1847; the *Evening Standard* newspaper was first published, 1860; the Norwegian parliament granted universal suffrage to women, 1913; the liner *Empress of Britain* was launched at Clydebank, 1930; the Disarmament Conference at Geneva ended in failure, 1934; at the 24-hour

motor race at Le Mans, France, 82 spectators were killed when a car skidded off the track and exploded, 1955; the first oil from the British North Sea oilfields was pumped ashore, 1975; the London production of the musical show *Barnum* opened, 1981. Today is the Feast Day of St Barnabas the Apostle, Saints Felix and Fortunatus, St Parasius and St Paula Frassinetti.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Alexander Sturges, "Money (II): Moretto da Brescia, *Portrait of a Young Man*", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Miranda Neave, "Neo-Classical Glass", 2.30pm. National Portrait Gallery: Karin Fernald, "Queen Victoria, Prince Albert and the Artists", 1.10pm. Wallace Collection, London W1: Joanne Hedley, "Narrative Paintings in the Wallace Collection", 1pm.

APPOINTMENTS

Dr Harcourt Martin Grant Concanon, to be full-time President of the Pensions Appeal Tribunals. Judge Denis Alan Orde, elected Master of the Bench of the Inner Temple. The Duke of Edinburgh, to be Master of the Corporation of Trinity House.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £8.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, forthcoming marriages, Marriages), which must be submitted in writing, are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra.

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Decision on abuse of process upheld

PROCEEDINGS BROUGHT under section 6 of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 against a respondent who had been exonerated in disciplinary proceedings by the Securities and Futures Authority did not constitute an abuse of process, since the issues involved in the two sets of proceedings were different, notwithstanding that they arose out of the same factual background.

The Court of Appeal refused the application of Ronald Allwyn Baker for leave to appeal against a decision of Mr Justice Jonathan Parker refusing his application for a stay of proceedings against him under section 6 of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 (Law Report, 9 June 1998).

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry issued proceedings against 10 former directors of companies in the Barings Group, including Mr Baker, seeking disqualification orders under s 6 of the 1986 Act.

Mr Baker applied for a stay of the disqualification proceedings on the ground that the prosecution of the proceedings against him would infringe the principle of double jeopardy, since he had already successfully resisted disciplinary proceedings brought by the Securities and Futures Authority (the SFA) in which the same, or substantially the same, charges were made against him as were made in the disqualification proceedings. The application was refused, and the judge refused leave to appeal.

Mr Baker applied to the Court of Appeal for leave to appeal.

Charles Hollander and Jasbir Dhillon (Pw Williams) for Mr

THURSDAY LAW REPORT

11 JUNE 1998

Re Barings plc; Secretary of State for Trade and Industry v Baker and others
Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Swinton, Thomas, Lord Justice Waller and Lord Justice Chadwick)
9 June 1998

Baker: Elizabeth Glover QC, Malcolm Davis-White and Edmund Nourse (Treasury Solicitor) for the Secretary of State.

Lord Justice Chadwick said that in the course of the SFA proceedings Mr Baker had attended a 16-day oral hearing and a five-day appeal.

Charges against him had been dismissed, and he had been awarded £50,000 costs.

It was understandable that he felt that the Secretary of State was acting oppressively in pursuing the disqualification proceedings. It was impossible not to feel sympathy for a respondent faced with the enormous stress of resisting prolonged disqualification proceedings brought by a government department with all the resources of the state behind it, in circumstances where no allegation of dishonesty had been made.

However, as the judge had appreciated, sympathy for Mr Baker's predicament was not a ground for staying proceed-

ings brought against him under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986.

The decisions whether or not to commence, and thereafter to pursue, applications to the court for disqualification orders had been entrusted by Parliament to the Secretary of State, and the court was not entitled to intervene and stay proceedings because it took the view that the Secretary of State was acting in a manner that it might regard as over-zealous.

Proceedings should be stayed where to allow them to continue would bring the administration of justice into disrepute among right thinking people, and right thinking people would not rush to a conclusion that the court was allowing its process to be abused without taking care to understand the nature both of the SFA proceedings and of the disqualification proceedings, and the inter-relationship between them.

The charges against Mr Baker in the SFA proceedings were that he had failed to act with the due care and skill of a prudent manager; in effect, that he was guilty of professional negligence. By contrast, his conduct as a director was central to the disqualification proceedings, the relevant question being whether that conduct had fallen so far short of the competence required of a director that the court ought to reach the conclusion that he was unfit to be concerned in the management of any company.

The judge had appreciated that distinction. An appeal against his decision could not succeed and, accordingly, the application would be refused.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

WORDS

WILLIAM HARTSTON
with prep.

FIRST IT WAS "sun-dried tomatoes", then "polenta", and recently "tamarind".

Writers love to find just the right verbal ingredient to epitomise the worst excesses of Islingtonian foodism, yet we have now been beaten at our own parodic game.

Just pause for a moment and admire the perfection

of "balsamic vinegar with sea salt" flavoured Kettle Chips.

"Salt 'n' vinegar crisps" has been transformed first by changing the crisps to

chips, then stylistic inversion (*vinegar 'n' salt*), then specification (*balsamic vinegar and sea salt*) and the final coup de cuisine is to replace "and" by "with".

It may be fish and chips, but it's fried fillet of plaice with French fried potatoes. Forget polenta, it's the pretentious "with" that marks out a real foodie.

'From where we were, we could see villas burned out, whole trees carbonised by fire'

Kosovo

Continued from page one
And why did the three plain clothes Serb policemen look so happy as they sat swilling beer at a table outside an abandoned Albanian bar?

Down the street, not far from the municipal buildings (undamaged) and the police station (built 1930, also undamaged) three ladies from the International Red Cross sat in their white Range Rover handing out humanitarian pamphlets to a tall skinhead in police uniform with a dark blue flak jacket over his chest. They were waiting, ever so politely – for the Swiss are infinitely polite people – to ask the friendly Serb policemen what had happened to the prisoners.

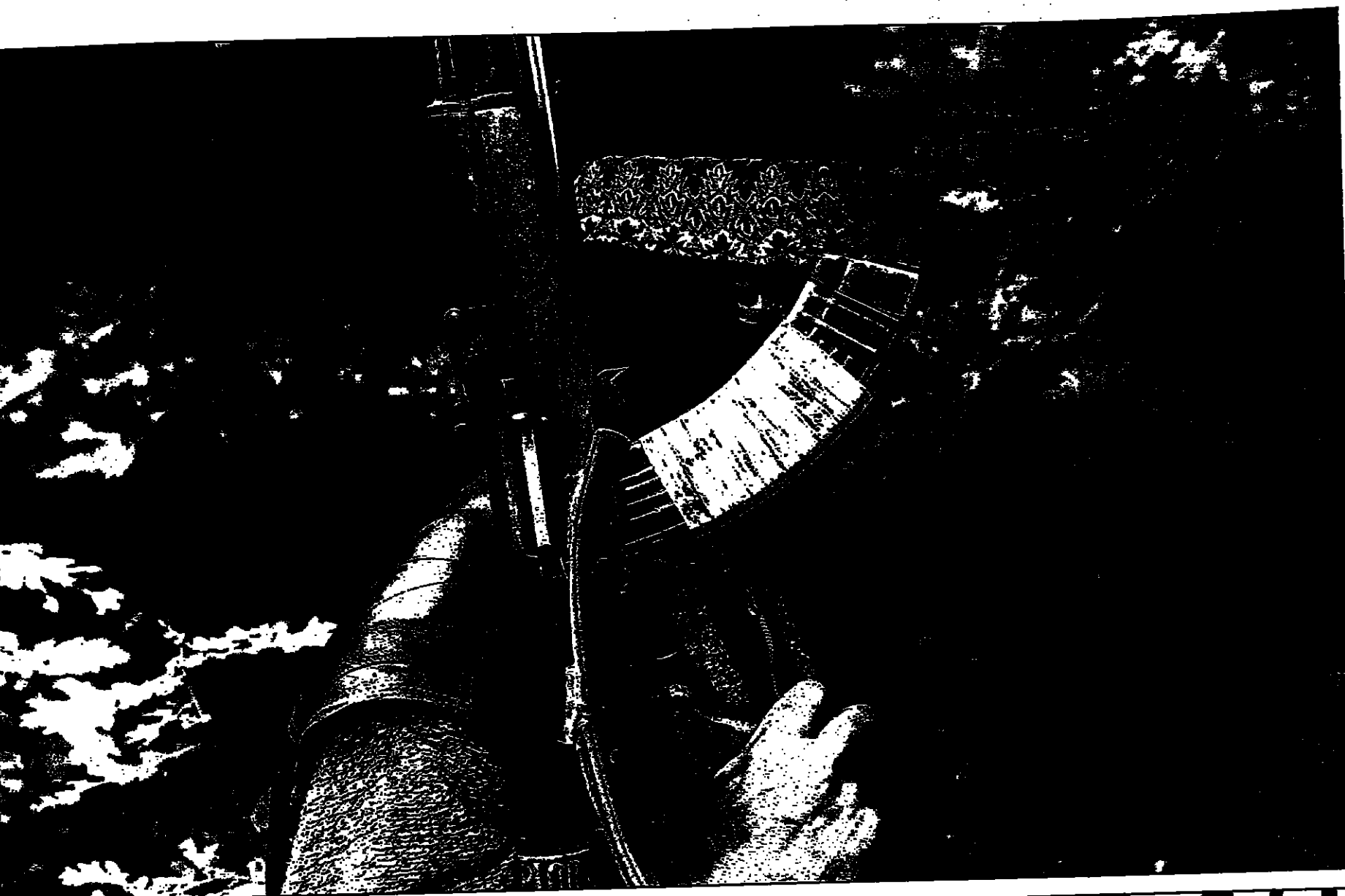
It was a question I had put several times to General Lukic when he met us at the dining room of the Metohija Hotel, the tables piled with ham, cheese, soda water and chilled beer. "We don't have any prisoners," he almost shouted back at me. "It is very well known in the world that a terrorist does not surrender – usually."

Furthermore, General Lukic added, the army played no role in the one-month long operation against the Kosovo Liberation Army, an assertion made all the odder by our sighting of military patrols, their leaders in sunglasses and white headbands against the afternoon heat, standing with machine guns atop their armour.

There was then some muttering between messrs Lukic and Gajic after which the general admitted: "When I said we do not have any prisoners, we don't – but the army has." Having already told us that the army played no role in the Decani fighting, the press conference was now becoming weirder by the minute. We were told there were between "15 and 20 foreign mercenaries" as prisoners in army hands. Then there were 50 of them. I began to feel sorry for the Red Cross ladies down the road.

Would there be Red Cross visits, we asked. "Yes, of course." Would there be access whenever the Red Cross wanted to these prisoners? "Yes, of course – after the investigation is done. The Red Cross was pushing to be present many times during the investigations... they wanted to talk to the terrorists. Such a precedent has never been set in the world – ever." The Red Cross would not get its instant access, we were informed, because its delegates supposedly passed on secrets from one prisoner to another.

Both senior security bosses told the same story about the origins of the fighting for the road between Pec and Prizren, the narrow Serb highway that lies parallel to the Albanian frontier beneath those craggy



A KLA commander in Drenica (left), a demonstration in Pristina (below left), young refugees in Tushille (below right) Mark Seager/David Rose

homes? Even deep behind the trees, we could see substantial villas burned out, farmyard cattle wandering along streams, whole trees carbonised by fire.

General Lukic led the way into the Decani police station, to a large backroom (a prison? I asked myself) in which were piled hundreds of weapons allegedly captured from the Kosovo Albanian guerrillas. There were old Second World War breech-loading rifles, 80 Kalashnikovs, two heavy machine-guns, rocket propelled grenades, two old and battered recoilless rifles and tens of thousands of rounds of ammunition, much of it tied up in crammed plastic boxes with Chinese lettering.

The Yugoslav army (and remember, it was not supposed to be involved), had earlier shown film of a white horse dying from gunfire wounds in a forest, its load of ammunition and rifles around it. The message was obvious, the weapons had come from over the mountains, from Albania.

There were other lessons for us yesterday afternoon on the Serb frontline. The security police took us up – just two miles from the ghost town of Decani – to the magnificent 14th-century monastery of Gračanica, built by King Milutin and one of the most impressive of all Serb churches of the Byzantine school.

The message? Of course, it was the old one: Kosovo is the heartland of Serbia. But we had arrived at an unfortunate time. Just outside the great church, with its staggering frescoes, was a squad of sweating, angry Yugoslav soldiers. Several had been fighting candles in the church, others washing their dirty covered faces in the frozen water of an ancient stone fountain.

"No photographs," their sergeant screamed at us, as they put on their flak jackets and Russian-style steel helmets and picked up their rifles and ammunition clips. They stalked fearfully beneath the old stone gateway and into the forest outside.

On a flimsy wooden balcony where a bearded monk served Serbian brandy on a silver tray, Father Sava (yes, he has his own website) told us of the Serb families he and his brothers sheltered, how the priests had opened their stables for the horses and cows of the refugees. "We are open to everyone who needs help," Father Sava told us in fluent English. "We would have been ready to protect the Albanians if they had come. But they didn't come."

We weren't surprised by his reply. But where were they?



heights we had observed earlier. There had been repeated assaults by the Kosovo Liberation Army, since December, but in late May its major objective – this according to General Lukic – was: "To gain control of the area along the section of the road between Pec and Decani be-

cause it wanted communications routes for arms smuggling and to provide areas to bring Albanians from western countries and even from the former Yugoslav republics. "Some of these terrorists were trained in western countries and in Albania. They wanted as much as

possible of the land on both sides of the road so they could move on to Klinja and Prizren and then hold the area up to the Albanian border in the mountains."

A large number of houses had been turned in fortresses and used as bunkers. Or so the General told

us. Save for one bunker, two trenches and a communication corridor made between two destroyed homes, we saw no evidence of this supposedly massive fortification.

That Serbs had been driven from their homes – and they are a small minority in the area – seemed to be

true. Evidence from Serbian Orthodox priests later suggested that local Albanians had first tried to protect the Serb families – eight of whom, according to one priest, were later thought to have been executed. But did this really account for that untold number of deserted

Rich pickings at the executive dining table

After-dinner speaking can be a lucrative alternative career for some celebrities.

By Jack O'Sullivan

JACK CHARLTON conjures up the scene over a good bottle of claret. West Germany have just equalised 2-2 in the final moments of full-time in the 1996 World Cup Final. The England players are dejected, about to sit down for a breather before the start of extra time. "And then," says Charlton, "Alf Ramsey comes around, telling us: 'On your feet, on your feet, on your feet. We don't want the Germans to know we're tired.'"

The listeners are enraptured. George Cohen, right-back in the victorious England side, leans across the table. "What Jack is telling you is exactly what Alf Ramsey did," he confides. Kenneth Wolstenholme, the veteran commentator, thrills everyone with his closing line of the match: "They think it's all over... it is now."

It sounds like pub reminiscing but in fact, it's a private lunch at the Hilton Hotel involving hundreds of company directors. They are not talking about interest rate rises or EMU, however. Last Friday, the Institute of Directors hired all surviving members of the 1966 England team. For £125 a plate, business people and their clients listened to Geoff Hurst describe his hat-trick.

The team will have split a fee upwards of £15,000 between them for the lunch event. The likes of Nobby Stiles and Martin Peters are part of

WHO YOU GET FOR YOUR MONEY AND WHAT THEY MAKE					
CHRIS PATTEN	HELEN SHARMAN	ROSABETH MOSS-KANTER	NORMAN SCHWARZKOPF	RICHARD NOBLE	BOB MONKHOUSE
£20-30,000	£3,500	£40,000	£100,000	£5,000	£10,000
Former Governor of Hong Kong. Expert on China and Asian economies, he is one of the few British politicians, along with Margaret Thatcher, with international recognition. Top European speaker this year	First British astronaut participating in 1991 Anglo-Soviet space flight. Motivational speaker on team work and personal achievement	US academic, business guru. She focuses on globalisation and the future of business, based on her philosophy of the three Cs – good business concepts, competence and far-flung connections	Commander of UN forces in the 1991 Gulf War. Gives the inside story of battle with Saddam Hussein on the ground. Probably the world's best-paid speaker. Lots of bangs for your buck	Holder of the world land speed record. Has been on the speaker circuit for years, but his latest success has created huge demand for him as an inspiration for those seeking examples of team building and vision	Comedian. Does after dinner act or award ceremonies. You may never have laughed at his jokes, but he is considered extremely witty and tailors up to date material to suit audience
Edwina Currie, politician and novelist	Terry Waite, former kidnaper victim and envoy	Laurie Taylor, psychologist and broadcaster	Stella Rimington, former head of MI5	Tim Waterstone, business entrepreneur	Lord Kingsdown, ex Governor of Bank of England
£3,000	£5-15,000	£4,000	£3,000	£4,000	£4-8,000
					£80,000
					£4,000
					£50,000
					£4,000
					£12,000
					£5,000
					£35,000
					£20,000
					£8,000
					£3,000
					£10,000
					£4,000
					£5,000
					£4,000
					£2,000
					£65,000
					£6,000

a massive and growing market in public speaking. Indeed, they don't even have to speak. Ray Wilson, who played left-back in the 1966 team, is so shy he just signs autographs. It's not just sport personalities who are in demand. "Any kind of ex-cabinet minister, in any way sensible and with a reasonable profile, can command a price," says Stanley Jackson of Food for Sport, purveyor of celebrity speakers. "The market price would start at £3,000-£4,000 and goes to £35,000 for the likes of Margaret Thatcher."

Jackson runs one of half a dozen leading London agencies. Typically, big companies present them with a budget to guarantee their top executives have a good time or go away with a message from the latest thinker or figure of inspiration. Attendance is usually either obligatory or by invitation, so the speaker needn't worry about an audience.

Flavour of the month is Richard Noble, who recently set the world land speed record and now com-

mands about £5,000 per event. "Richard is a very popular motivational speaker," says Jeremy Lee of JLA, the London-based speaker bureau. "Audiences want to hear someone who has had a vision, put it into practice and has a few lessons from experience which can be translated into the corporate environment."

You don't have to be a Ramulph Flennes or Chris Bonington to fit into this category. Heather Mills, the former model who lost a leg at 25 when knocked down by a police motorcyclist, is box-office. Now 29, her story is of personal courage – her campaigning has led to 30,000 artificial limbs being shipped from Britain to the victims of landmine explosions. Terry Waite can charge up to £15,000 for his kidnapping tale. Col Bob Stewart, former UN commander in Bosnia, is considered good value talking about crisis management for £3,000.

Then there are the business gurus who write a best-seller and then sing for their supper around the

world. Top billing this year goes to the American academic Rosabeth Moss-Kanter, who takes home \$60,000 a time in the States for proselytising her "Three Cs" guide to success – good business concepts, competence and far-flung connections. Richard Scace, Professor of Organisation Behaviour at the University of Kent, is a British futurologist much in demand on £5,000 a time.

"I've recently sent him to conferences in Argentina, Oslo and Jersey," says Brendan Barnes, of Speakers for Business, another London agency. But there are surprisingly few business heroes who make it on to the circuit. Sir John Harvey-Jones still makes a killing. Tim Waterstone is making waves at £4,000 a time. But few other household names are available.

The biggest financial hitters are the men who have run wars. So Stormin' Norman Schwarzkopf makes \$175,000 for offering proximity to, and insight into, supreme

power. Colin Powell is up there with former American presidents who can expect \$100,000 a speech (although the ex-president George Bush charges a \$20,000 premium).

It's not easy to get into the big league. Those who could command large sums are often not permitted to speak for money because they are in public positions or because, like Richard Branson (whom everyone wants), they don't have the time or the interest. Those out of office have often failed and lose their appeal. You also need an international profile. So most British politicians are too parochial – Margaret Thatcher being the exception.

"Chris Patten is very busy at the moment," Brendan Barnes says. Being in charge of the Hong Kong handover has given him important expertise on China and Asia. He can cost up to £20,000 in the UK. "In the US, where the market is much more established, a speaker can double his fee," Barnes says. Leading Authorities, an American agency, publish-

es a 150-page list of speakers covering everything from "dealing with difficult people" to "political humour and satire", with published fee ranges going up to \$75,000 plus. John Major is signed up with the prestigious Washington Speakers Bureau, which pitches for \$50,000 a speech, in effect pricing him out of the British market.

New stars are constantly emerging. Jeremy Lee's tip for next year's hot speaker is Helmut Kohl. If he loses the German elections, and Nelson Mandela when he retires (\$100,000). Brendan Barnes favours Sir John Weston, at present British ambassador to the UN, who retires in three weeks' time.

Speakers can also lose their appeal. Anita Roddick used to be much in demand but her star is setting in. The Body Shop finds itself in trouble. In May, Lech Walesa was booked to speak in central London to 2,500 paying guests. The event had to be cancelled because of lack of interest. He was yesterday's man. Next year,

they are trying for Benazir Bhutto at around \$30,000.

Nevertheless, the emerging market, which in Europe is largely run by British agencies, leaves lots of room for the famous to make a healthy living. Journalists such as Martin Lewis, Anna Ford, Trevor McDonald and Laurie Taylor are great beneficiaries. Peter Hobday, former presenter of Radio 4's *Today* programme, is ubiquitous. "He has the added advantage of not still being with the programme, so he is more available," says Jeremy Lee. "Well-known presenters can be used to suggest objectivity at big company events. During Q&A sessions, the chief executive appears to be given a hard time, when in fact a lot of questions have been worked out beforehand."

And some people never go out of fashion. Who is the favourite comedian, guaranteed to leave your business clients with a great after-dinner glow? Make your booking fast for the immortal Bob Monkhouse.

Diana the fairytale feminist

Books published this week by
Julie Burchill and Beatrix Campbell
cast the Princess of Wales in a
radical new light. By Glenda Cooper

From now on, I am going to own myself and be true to myself," the Princess of Wales told her biographer Andrew Morton. "I no longer want to live someone else's idea of what and who I should be. I am going to be me."

If Diana stood little chance of realising her dream in life, there is even less that she can achieve in death. We are all now preoccupied with what Diana, what is she? We have had Diana the champion of the lonely, Diana the patron of Versace, Diana the divorcee and now we have Diana the feminist icon.

This week sees two new Diana books published, both by feminists and republicans who seek to rehabilitate the princess as a strong force in both arenas. "I am the cynic of the world. The cynic's cynic," says Julie Burchill, author of *Diana* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson £20). "But in this aristocratic young woman two years and two days younger than me, I saw something I could not sneer away."

Neither can Beatrix Campbell. Her book *Diana Princess of Wales: How Sexual Politics Shook the Monarchy* (The Women's Press £7.99), is also out today. "It was Diana's treatment as a woman and her sense that she was sustained by the strength of women that made her dangerous," she writes.

Burchill's book is a racy read with plenty of pictures, Campbell's a more sober attack on patriarchy. Neither writes comes from the royal-watching table. Burchill has long made clear her republican sympathies and Beatrix Campbell is a journalist who has worked for, among others, *Marxism Today*, and is visiting professor of Women's Studies at Newcastle University. Yet both of them venerate Diana. Tonight, Campbell will speak with Andrew Morton, the tabloid reporter turned biographer about how the princess brought sexual politics into the Royal Family. Ten years ago that would have been unthinkable.

But then that was BM and BP (Before Morton and Before Panorama), when I knew about Diana was that she loved shopping. For much of the 1980s she seemed an irrelevant, and at moments her life was frankly yonkers. The feminists had shouted 'Don't Do It' and she had. What was there to say? There was a great deal more. The marriage had been rotten for years.

But we only found out with Diana's decision to co-operate with her biography, which both Campbell and Burchill pinpoint as the turning point for our views of Diana herself and the Royal Family.

For Burchill, Diana's actions are seen as the struggle of Everywoman to achieve what she wants, the personal fight to transcend not only her restrictive upbringing - "upper class girls are treated like dogs. She had such a miserable, crap life, almost Dickensian" - as well as vanquishing her husband, who was no more than a "bogus intellectual...with angst in his pants". Diana's decision to go public on the hurt she had endured by a faithless husband was speaking out on behalf of other women who had been slapped down by heartless men, but who did not have the media eager to lap up stories about them. Her truthfulness about her eating disorders, depression and suicide threats linked her with women outside her social sphere. Her *True Story* was a triumphant smack in the eye for the male chauvinist Windors.

For Campbell, the result is more overtly political. Diana's decision to attack the Prince of Wales for "his bad behaviour as a man" detonated the magic and myths of the royal family. She sees Diana's act of inviting the media into her life as a political act which "ignited a wave of Republican feeling", an act far more important than her involvement in radical causes such as landmines and Aids. "Her revolt against her arranged marriage, the deceit and duplicity of her husband and the complicity of his relatives exposed them as an atavistic family, a family manqué," Campbell writes. Her argument is that by exposing the Royal Family's facade of respectable behaviour, Diana inspired people to think about republicanism.

"She did something that no woman in the royal family has done in the twentieth century," she writes. "By telling her story, Diana did not create republican sentiment but she did transform the space in which the public could contemplate their feelings about royalty."

"I think she did a lot for republicanism," adds Burchill. "She was the first to come from inside and could do so much damage, and it was so exciting to find someone inside the Royal Family like that."

So what are we to make of all this?



John Voos

JULIE BURCHILL ON DIANA THE REBEL

"THE HYSTERICAL mutilation and Ophelia-like staircase-fallings were long gone; no more throwing up or falling down for this victim turned vamp turned champ. "She fought back like a woman with stealth and stubbornness and sarcasm. She became a scenery eater of the coolest kind; this is the part of the Joan Crawford film

when the heroine finally realises that her man done her wrong and her fresh, ingénue face turns into a hard-smiled, glittery-eyed mask for a moment before she snaps back to normal or at least what passes for it. "From now on it's just me and the kids. And I'll do anything for those kids. D'you hear me? Anything!"



Geraint Lewis

BEATRIX CAMPBELL ON DIANA THE REBEL

"IF ANYONE had been in any doubt about the fury of the palace towards truculent women Diana revealed that old royal habits die hard; an institution that had put women in the Tower... still worked on the assumption that an unwanted princess could simply be put away. In comments which connected her to contemporary

feminism she counted herself amongst the "strong women" ... It faced the Establishment with an alarming, unnerving prospect - she had a social base beyond their comprehension and control ... Diana ... transformed the space in which the public could contemplate their feelings about royalty and republicanism."

Yes, Diana's speaking out did a lot for women who suffered from eating disorders. Her achievements were considerable - the simple act of shaking hands with an Aids sufferer did more to break down prejudice than anything else. Her work to ban landmines changed the international agenda. But Diana the feminist? Diana the republican?

What Diana wanted was Charles out of the picture and William on the throne, with her as a powerful Queen Mother who would put our present hard-as-nails matriarch to shame. She made this clear in the tapes released by Andrew Morton, when she tells him "If I was able to write my own script I'd say that I would hope my husband would go off with his lady...and leave me and the children to carry the Wales name through." Bringing down the monarchy would do herself out of a job. As

Burchill admits "She'd have grabbed the throne with both hands." Besides, she didn't always practice what she preached. She did charity work, but she holidayed on a playboy's paradise with the Al Fayed. She spoke to downtrodden women but chose men who did nothing for her. She spoke of strength while putting faith in clairvoyants and crystal gazers. "Don't we all have a problem with

Diana? She has been a problem for feminists," agrees Campbell. "But she did an important thing in bringing the future king to account and so it doesn't matter to me if she spent a million pounds on frocks." Diana Spencer did indeed have a dog's life. Her strength was the fact that she tapped into women's suffering rather than women's achievement. What we liked was that she showed how a princess in a palace

could still have a dreadful life. But what she really wanted was the status quo twisted to her advantage. So don't let's try to make the most famous blonde in the world into something she wasn't - that's what she complained about all her life. The female role model Diana would have empathised with today is that other photogenic blonde - Ally McBeal. And nobody's calling her a feminist icon.

My husband has killed himself: how do I cope?

PEOPLE WHO commit suicide usually live other lives that their family knows nothing about. No, don't mean that Monique's husband's mistress had returned to her husband or that he was about to be caught with his hand in the till at the bank or that he was a spy for the KGB or that he'd buggered the bishop. Though, of course, these are sometimes reasons for people committing suicide.

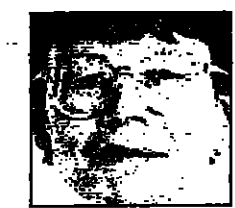
No, Monique's husband's other life was an internal life, a life of depression. For the last six months of his life he'd been unusually irritable. Not worth thinking about very much perhaps, at the time, but a sign that he was struggling with something inside that he simply couldn't let out.

Why couldn't he have shared it with Monique? One of the symptoms of depression can be the destructive and lopsided clarity it gives you. Yes, of course it's like a black cloud, a leaden fog that renders you incapable of feeling or joy, but there can also be an absolute certainty in depression, indeed a real feeling or knowledge that life is not worth living.

"Aha!" says the depressed person. "I've finally found the meaning of life! That it is non-stop suffering and agony. That any moment I hid in the past when I thought it might be filled with hope and love was simply an illusion." They are also struck with the certainty that there is no cure and that no one could ever understand how they feel. It is in this mood that the suicidal person attaches the hose to the exhaust or chucks back the pill from the bottle. And it is as real a feeling for him as it is for the person on LSD who is convinced he can fly or for a schizophrenic who believes he is Jesus Christ.

Sometimes suicide might become confused with libidinal. Perhaps Monique's husband's suicide also stemmed from his conviction Captain Oates style, that his family would be better off without him. Perhaps it was a supreme sacrifice, an act, in a way, of love, to protect his innocent family from the rage, misery, violence and confusion that he felt. Perhaps he killed himself not because he loved his family too little but because he loved them too much. The thought that "they'll be better off without me" might have been real.

Monique may feel, at some point in the future, furious that he could have done



VIRGINIA IRONSIDE

DILEMMAS

Six years ago Monique's husband of 20 years left home without a kiss or a note and killed himself - having been nothing more than rather bad-tempered for the previous six months - leaving her and her teenage daughter baffled and bereft. Monique still feels like a zombie, asking herself "why" all the time. How can she cope?

something so irreversible without at least discussing it with her first. After all, most big steps, like moving house, moving jobs and so on, are at least talked over with other members of the family before a decision is reached. If he'd been so convinced, then why hadn't he at least mentioned it to her so she could have put another side to the argument? Depression's not like that. Depression is also incredibly painful, more painful, many would say, than any physical illness.

And this is another reason that he might have taken his own life, not because he wanted to kill himself so much as because he wanted to kill the depression. Suicides may want to kill their disease rather than kill themselves, but they are forced

to throw out the baby with the bath water. By concluding that her husband's death was a terrible accident of mental chemistry rather than having any rational causes, Monique may be able, slowly, to come to terms with this tragedy.

What readers say:

MONIQUE'S HUSBAND must have been severely depressed, but more than that, his actions speak of depression as a true illness and not a reaction to something seriously wrong in his life.

His death makes no sense, in the same way that being struck down by any other illness or killed through no fault of his own in an accident makes no sense. The best way to understand the death, because it is the most truthful way to understand it, is as a blow from outside that struck him down by cruel bad luck. This can only be a small help, for such deaths, in the prime of life, are amongst the most difficult to come to terms with. With time, it is at least possible to do so.

The difference is this: Monique finishes her letter by asking: "How could he have done this to us?" He didn't, a dreadful illness did it, just as certainly as if it had been cancer or a stroke that killed him. His memory is not to be blamed or questioned, only mourned. SIMON WEIRBANK Sheffield

I READ Monique's dilemma and my heart stopped. I was there 30 years ago. I had two small children, too small to know details at the time, so we have never talked about it. Monique's daughter knows, it is out in the open, it would be good if they could talk about it.

The difference from other sudden deaths is that natural causes are blameless; an accident or murder gives one a target for blame, but suicide is the awkward one - who do you blame? Well, yourself mostly. But that won't do; you have to learn not to. The only way to do that is to put the act into perspective.

In Monique's case blame him, the perpetrator of this terrible event, tell him what he did to you and your daughter. Write it, think it and say it to him in private. But feel sad and grieve for him

as a victim, too, because he alone knew why he had to take his life. Then live your life. JO Wells, Somerset

I AM a happily married mother of two lovely children. We have a nice home, few financial problems and many close friends. Yet I suffer from periodic bouts of acute depression. I am engulfed by feelings of black despair and plan my suicide meticulously. My family know nothing of this - just that I am sometimes quiet and withdrawn; and I have never attempted to kill myself, mainly because I can't bear to imagine my husband and children in Monique's position. Yet, at the worst times, consciousness itself becomes so painful to me that it subsumes my reason and compassion. Perhaps this explains why Monique has been stiff. I do not confide in others (as in order to protect them from the worst of it; b: because I fear for my sanity; and c: because I don't feel that anyone can help). I'm sure her husband would be very sorry indeed if he knew the legacy he left her; but I don't doubt that he could have acted otherwise. JANE Cambridge

TWELVE YEARS ago my first husband committed suicide in the same way Monique's did. He walked out without saying goodbye, leaving me to bring up five children. Eighteen months after that, my mother also committed suicide.

To say that life was hell is a complete understatement, but I was absolutely determined that, come what may, the damage to the children must be minimised. Of course, they bear some mental scars - so will I for the rest of my life - but the one big decision which enabled me to deal with the past and go forward from there was that I must forgive.

No one commits suicide in such circumstances unless they are mentally ill and so cannot be held responsible for their actions. My first husband loved me and the children. So did my mother. But they were both ill.

I have told my children these simple truths. If we didn't all forgive, our lives

would be filled with bitterness and none of us could ever be happy again.

Four years after my first husband's death, I met and married a wonderful man, with whom I am happier than I ever thought possible (and infinitely happier than during my first marriage, which was another complete surprise, as I thought I could never love or be loved again). CAROLE BACH Bedford

MONIQUE MUST try to understand that it was not that he would not tell her of his pain, but that he could not do so. Men who were young in the Fifties and early Sixties had years of training in the suppression of their emotions and the construction of a social shell of normality. In the grip of a profound depressive illness, it was literally impossible for him to talk to you about it.

There is nobody to blame; the tragic illness that took his life is no different in that sense from an attack of pneumonia.

Monique must cope by remembering him as the man she loved and who died of illness tragically young and, especially, as the father of her daughter. And, in remembrance of the brave fight he fought for six months, she must make sure that she learns to recognise the signs of depression, lest she finds herself one day looking into the abyss. DR HARRY YOXALL Taunton, Somerset

Next week's dilemma: Dear Virginia, I am pregnant and will soon be having my second scan. My partner wants us to be told the sex of the baby but I don't want it to be a surprise. He says if the information is there, why not have it, and he doesn't like the hospital knowing something that we don't. I can't see that it makes any difference. I feel it's unnatural to be told in advance. He says that he will ask them to tell him but not me, but undoubtedly he'd let a "he" or a "she" slip out sometime during the next few months. How can we resolve this argument?

Yours sincerely, Carol

POETIC LICENCE

THE INNER LIFE OF A DOG

DOES YOUR pet have an inner life? This was one of the questions asked at a recent conference on the scientific study of consciousness in Tucson, Arizona. Yes, say one or two philosophers. No, says a dog owner.

THE INNER LIFE OF A DOG

On evidence produced so far The border collie on my chair Who daily sheds his weight in hair Is not as fit with Schopenhauer Or not as far as I'm aware.

When pressed, he wouldn't say as such That lying around in my back yard He'd ever toyed with Kierkegaard But quietly nudged at his crutch As if the question was too hard

And then the Third World Debt arose What might the western nations do? He didn't seem to have a clue But ran his tongue across his nose Straight after drinking from the loo

While touching on the recent test Of India's bomb - how did he feel? The threat of conflict. Was it real? He tried to mount a dinner guest Which rather ruined the evening meal

And when I mentioned haute couture He took a time to comprehend But hinted that a recent trend For rolling round in goat ordure Was de rigueur for man's best friend

So had he read Anais Nin Or ever surfed the Internet And e-mailed to a fellow pet? He much preferred the kitchen bin Was all the answer I could get

Martin Newell

You call it fiction, I call it egotism

Blake Morrison accused
Hanif Kureishi of pillaging his
private life and passing it off as
fiction in his new novel. Look
who's telling stories, replied
Kureishi. By Michael Glover

Hanif Kureishi is reading rather hurriedly, rather nervously, from a script whose pages, when he turns them, keep banging against the microphone, shocking himself and the audience. He's dressed in crumpled denim and a jacket that looks as if it may have started life as a tartan picnic rug until some enterprising seamstress saw other, grander possibilities in it – something more shapely, perhaps, to adorn the shoulders of a rising, photogenic novelist. She even added bright, eye-catching metallic buttons for good measure.

His face, gently tapering, looks olive-skinned and extremely smoothly shaven in this artificial light; his sideboards are the narrowest and the cruellest I've ever seen. The front of his curly hair is oiled and shaped up into a fairly defiant quiff of sorts. It looks like the upward drift of a complicated smoke ring. In order to prove that he's communicating with us and not lost in some profound inner reverie, his head keeps jerking up and down, up and down – the words are a mouthful of seeds that he lifts and spits forth, one by one.

It's the opening pages of a short (he wrote it in one month, and then took another month to rewrite), newly published novel, *Intimacy*, that he is reading from, and it's all about the dilemma facing the man who decides that he must leave his wife and family because his life has become intolerable to him, a continuous act of self-betrayal.

"What am I free for?" pleads the desperate, and desperately confused, first-person narrator. Vast black curtains rise up behind Kureishi, dwarfing him and underpinning the mood of the extract.

As he continues to read, another man, slender and middle-aged, seated at a low table in front of a tall, un-winking glass of water and somberly dressed in a black corduroy suit, pays fierce, almost unblinking attention to him as if he feels somehow morally responsible for what this fairly reckless and impulsive man is saying out loud.

As soon as Kureishi finishes, hurrying away from the lectern with visible relief, Blake Morrison, his interrogator for the evening, gets stuck into him. Not aggressively so though, because Morrison doesn't work like that. He has a seemingly harmless, mild and fairly self-effacing manner which compliments

very well his unforced, mid-Yorkshire accent. He canoodles and wheedles. He never shouts because shouting gets you nowhere.

Morrison writes fact, he explains with a coy half-smile – he strokes one hand with another as if it needs soothing – whereas Kureishi writes fiction. And there are boundaries between these two things, he adds. Kureishi listens carefully, fist pressed tight against his mouth. But some reviewers have read your book as a personal confession, adds Morrison, and you left your own wife and children just as the book's narrator does. So is it really a novel or not?

Of course it's fiction, says Kureishi. "It's about a bloke's state of mind, over a single night. He's going mad. Just because it's written in the first person doesn't mean that it's an act of personal confession. It's an artificial construct. Confessions suggest you're doing it for yourself."

"But what about that sentence which goes something like: 'There are certain fucks for which you'd have your partner drown in a freezing sea?'"

Kureishi fingers the back of his neck, then throws his head back imperiously, more pugnacious, more sure of himself now.

"Look, it's quite irrelevant where it all comes from. Some stuff came from me, lots from other people. I can't remember which was which. The important thing is what happens between the reader and the book, whether it actually means something to them."

"But didn't your sister complain about being used?" harried Morrison with infinite gentleness and persistence. Kureishi scoffed at the very thought of it.

"On the contrary, she complained about being omitted. And anyway, different people are bound to remember things differently. In the course of the innumerable press conferences that my mother now gives, she claims that she used to like Dickens and Shakespeare. It seems to me that she was principally watching *Emmerdale Farm* during those years, but we are all entitled to our views... all our lives are fictions, aren't they? What did your sister say when you wrote that book about your father?"

Morrison spluttered with mild indignation. "But I was writing non-fiction! I had an obligation to tell the truth! You seem to have a very different contract. You feel that you have the freedom to do what you like. But let me ask you one thing: is there any detail of any single person's life



Hanif Kureishi: 'Some stuff came from me, lots from other people,' he says of his new novel

that you wouldn't put into print? Do you ever leave things out?"

Kureishi smiled. Something apposite had occurred him. "Evelyn Waugh used to say that you could write anything about a person provided that you added that they were attractive to the opposite sex." Then he gave an almighty fudge of an answer to Morrison's specific inquiry.

"We have to use our lives. They're figures in our world. We make things up all the time, of course. This is

being alive. As a novelist, you take bits of people and mix them all up. To me, it's the freedom to imagine around people that's important. You can't tiptoe through the world!"

And anyway, wasn't Morrison himself being a bit economical with the truth? That the book about his father, for example – wasn't that really, when all was said and done, a marvellous piece of story-telling? Hadn't he shuffled things around, polished things up – just as any

writer of fiction would? Now it was Morrison's turn to look a little less sure of his ground. "Well, in order to make a story, you have to do a certain amount of rearranging..."

"But surely it's more than that! Your way is much more misleading than mine because it denies the elements of invention altogether. Your contract is not worth the paper it's not written on."

"My sister would accept it though. I'll even give you her telephone

number, if you like!"

And so the mighty battle between the respective claims of fiction and non-fiction raged on, with each man giving, and then seizing back, a little precious ground as late evening moved inexorably towards night, when even literary combatants must lay down their paper swords and sleep the sleep of the questionably just.

Intimacy is published by Faber

'INTIMACY'

Jay is leaving his partner and their two sons. This passage is from the beginning of the novel, on the eve of his departure

"It is the saddest night, for I'm leaving and not coming back. Tomorrow morning, when the woman I have lived with for six years has gone to work on her bicycle, and our children have been taken to the park with their ball, I will pack some things into a suitcase, slip out of my house hoping that no one will see me, and take the tube to Victor place. There, for an unspecified period, I will sleep on the floor in the tiny room he has kindly offered me, next to the kitchen. Each morning I will heave the thin single mattress back to the airing cupboard. I will stuff the musty duvet into a box. I will replace the cushions on the sofa."

"I will not be returning to this life. I cannot. Perhaps I should leave a note to convey this information. 'Dear Susan, am not coming back...' Perhaps it would be better to ring tomorrow afternoon. Or I could visit the weekend. The details I haven't decided. Almost certainly will not tell her my intentions this evening or tonight. I will put it off. Why? Because words are clumsy and they make things happen. Once they are out you cannot put them back. Something irrevocable will have been done, and I am fearful and uncertain. As a matter of fact, I am trembling, and have been all afternoon, all day."

This, then, could be our last evening as an innocent, complete, ideal family; my last night with a woman I have known for ten years, a woman I love almost everything about, and want no more of. Soon we'll be like strangers. No, we cannot be that. Hurting someone is an act of reluctant intimacy: it will be dangerous acquaintances with a history. That first time we put her hand on my arm – I wish I had turned away. Why didn't I? The waste, the waste of time and feeling. She has said something similar about me. But do we mean it? I am in at least three minds about all questions."

"I perch on the edge of the bath and watch my sons, aged five and three, one at each end. Their toys, plastic animals and bottles float on the surface, and they chatter to themselves and one another, neither fighting nor whingeing, for a change. They are ebullient and fierce, and people say what happy and affectionate children they are. This morning, before I set out for the day, knowing I had to settle a few things in my mind, my elder boy, insisting on another kiss before I closed the door, said, 'Daddy, I love everyone'."

The Bard would have loved it

THEATRE

MUCH ADO ABOUT
NOTHING
PLAYHOUSE THEATRE
LONDON

LET ME be quite clear: Cheek by Jowl's *Much Ado About Nothing* is wonderful. Not only is it constantly surprising and extraordinarily moving, it is full of wonder.

Most productions manage some of the multiple plots at the expense of others. If you take

Beatrice and Benedick to be the central relationship then the play tends to collapse when trying to tie together all the other plots around it. But by widening the focus to all the men's behaviour towards women in times of war, Dedan Donnellan and Nick Ormerod reveal the play to be as tightly laced as Hero's wedding corset.

Even Kenneth Branagh's Shakespeare-as-Real's catalogue film recognised that the action opens with the men returning from war, but after a

flurry of hair-washing the women's reaction seemed restricted to an appreciation of well-filled uniforms. Here, they act in relation to men whose behaviour is utterly dictated by military codes. Instead of the predictable cute-meet, Beatrice and Benedick's protracted pairing-off is the result of male public-school fear and disdain of women. When Benedick is fooled into loving Beatrice, Matthew Macfadyen's literal fall from upright behaviour is gloriously funny.

Military men spend years in their own company, which brings suggestions of homosexuality. This not only explains Don Pedro's usually mysterious sadness, it also beeps up the awkwardness surrounding Claudio's lack of interest in his own marriage. Donnellan uses Don Pedro's announcement of Claudio's betrothal to illuminate this. Upon hearing the news, Claudio, who has walked huffily off into the auditorium, leaps back on stage to hug not his wealthy bride-to-be, but his best friend.

Donnellan uses his hallmark style of continuous action to mirror the plots and charge up the conflict between the private and public business of love with scenes acted in front of the entire company. Much of the first half is staged as a ball at which Saskia Reeves's mercurial Beatrice becomes deliciously drunk. Meanwhile, the cast pair off and regroup around her, smartly underlining the plot's crucial overheard intimacies.

This is one of those rare occasions that make you understand why people still present Shakespeare. It has nothing to do with making you "appreciate" his cultural greatness, you simply feel it as you drink in the play's living, breathing passion. The play marks the end, for the foreseeable future, of Cheek by Jowl. All the more reason to book for this splendid, glowing swansong.

DAVID BENEDICT

To 27 July (0171-839 4101)



Clap if you believe in fairies

Ed Thomas, leading light of the Welsh theatre scene, believes in fairies and angels. And he's not ashamed to admit it. Thomas is no fool, though: he knows that a modern audience – especially an audience at a hip joint like the Royal Court – would scoff at his literal-minded attempt to represent a sprite, winged or otherwise, on stage.

Evocative though the title of his new play maybe, *Gos Station Angel* isn't about the life and times of Robin Goodfellow, elf pump attendant. A quartet of very 20th century-looking seraphs flit in and out, dressed in business suits with tiny blue wing markings etched on their shoulders, solemnly holding up black umbrellas.

But like the throbbing soundtrack they're more for decorative affect than anything. Thomas tries to suggest an

other world by abstract means, on an empty stage, a world which may be solely a figment of the human imagination, or simply a convenient metaphor, or even a joke.

Unfortunately, he overburdens both his able cast and his audience with the task of making sense of the play's all-per-vading ambiguities. The piece probably contains more references to fairies and angels than Shakespeare's entire canon. The very first line is "I saw an angel" uttered by Ace, a young man with his head in the clouds and his heart set on the ethereal Bron. It's a perfect

match (as Ace's constantly spooked-out, doddery mother, excellent Valmai Jones, informs him: "You were a baby made by fairies.") together they are going to leave the dreaminess of Small Town behind them and drive "a blue tinted glass Marina 1800 TC into the heart of Saturday night". The only obstacle is the past – the two come with some heavy emotional baggage, which we watch being stacked up, and finally jettisoned as the narrative loops back and forth in time.

Ace and his folks, have been driven over the edge by the imminent destruction of their cliff-top home through the combined forces of "a tantrum sea" and the local council. Bron meanwhile is missing her brother, Bri, the black sheep of the family that has not got over the shame of being blamed for

the senseless slaughter of 24 new-born lambs. The play's main problem is that for all their dreams of flight, Ace and Bron never stand out from the rest of the crazy-talking town. Simon Gregor steals the show as both a gruff pub landlord (a sort of Welsh Beagle) and a frustrated checkout assistant who wails "Let me get pregnant by the spunk of a fairy!"

Thomas can write dialogue that is sometimes as excruciating in its whimsy as that of another Thomas, Dylan. But there are times when you hear something funny, stirring, and original. Better luck next time. *Royal Court Theatre upstairs, at the Ambassadors. (0171-565 5000) to 27 June. This review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper.*

DOMINIC CAVENTISH

Velvet glove on an iron wall

CLASSICAL
3 OR 4 COMPOSERS
ELECTRA STRINGS
SALISBURY FESTIVAL

A GRAND piano dolled up to the nines in a seductive red velvet dress; the rhythm of a tango hammered out quite literally on a corrugated metal wall; the divine Melanie Pappenheim wearing another dress made out of pictures from women's magazines while singing lyrics cut and pasted from their problem pages. All this plus plaintive Yemeni vocals, ethereal bowing and scraping from the Electra Strings, and a live performance of the music from everyone's favourite mobile phone ad. The group 3 or 4 Composers certainly know how to put on a show, and while the

music might sometimes be a bit miserly with the notes, you can't complain about the extravagance of the staging.

The evening began with composer Helen Ottaway seated at the velvet piano, wearing a dress cut from the same cloth so that it was difficult to see where instrument ended and pianist began. If the resulting symphony of Dralon suggested we were in for a frothy confection, this was soon belied by the very short and stark pieces Ottaway played. Whether they were written by Ottaway herself or two other members of the company, Laurence Crane and Simon Rackham, one tended to perceive the music as a continuous and very effective sequence, each piece weaving a delicate pattern before ending in the dying fall of a long sustain.

The second half was devoted to the music of Jocelyn Pook, played by the ensemble against the iron wall and metal canopy-set designed by Laura Hopkins. From an electronic keyboard Harvey Brough provided drones, washes and samples, while Pook on viola joined the other four members of the Electra Strings, and singers Pappenheim, Kim Scrivener and Moshe Tamir alternated duties from a platform at the back, all lit (by Rachael Shipley) in a cool, cosmic, bluey wash. If the atmosphere was already unearthly, the entry of the sampled voice of Kathleen Ferrier for "Blow the Wind – Pie Jesu", made it all the more so. Though the music has been drilled into one's brain by the Orange TV ad, it remains a beautiful and poignant piece.

The rest of the programme

served to emphasise that Pook has more than one string to her bow, with comic-cabaret songs, an evocative Celtic lament, and an angry closing sequence from the score for the short film *Blight*, about the M1 roadworks and attendant protests. Pook's music tended to work within fairly strictly imposed limits, but with remarkable fluency, and the singing in particular was superb. 3 or 4 Composers might be addressed up, but you couldn't accuse them of having nowhere to go.

"Voices On The Verge" by Jocelyn Pook, with the Electra Strings, Melanie Pappenheim, and Jonathan Peter Kenny, is at the Islington Festival, on Friday 19 June. Tel: 0171 833 3131 for details.

PHIL JOINSON

FILM

Preaching with naked abandon

RELIGIOUS MANIACS can squeeze all the joy out of spirituality when they start plugging away at a conversion - it becomes a calculated tally, like a gigolo carving notches into his bedpost. In his unsettling new film *The Apostle*, the actor Robert Duvall, who also wrote, directed and executive-produced the picture, has found a way of revealing the compassion that thrives in such a character without actually dispelling the notion that most fanatics are no different in their hungry hunt for subscribers than charity-nuts on a fun-run. You can watch Duvall as Sonny, accumulating a sizable congregation or marshalling a troop of children to refurbish a church while chanting the books of the Bible, and you can see both sides of him at once - Lord's servant and travelling salesman.

As an actor, Duvall is usually cast to signify comfort and reassurance, as in *Falling Down* or *Colors* or the first two *Godfather* films. Sure, he was chilling as a volatile cop in Coppola's *The Rain People*, but that was back in 1969, before people had begun thinking of him as a favourite uncle. By playing Sonny in *The Apostle*, he is subjecting the empathy of his audience to its most rigorous challenge.

When you looked into the eyes of Burt Lancaster in *Elmer Gantry* or Robert Mitchum in *The Night of the Hunter*, you may not have known what you were going to get, but you knew it wouldn't be nice. With Sonny, however, you can see purity and ugliness all muddled up together; his kindness is tart with hostility. Attempting a reconciliation with his wife (Farrah Fawcett), Sonny drops to his knees and begs her to pray with him, but not before exploiting her fear of his temper with teasing lunge which threaten to turn into violence. Even after he has fled his troubles and found a potential new flame, he undercuts a sweet good-night kiss with some insidious bullying over which he appears to have no control - he opens his heart and with the love comes the bile.

It's a very musical performance, both vocally and physically. Sonny is a practised showman, but he's no fake. He's a passionate orator whose mastery of repetition and alliteration suggest that his natural environment might be the White House, a location in which, as in the church, his immoral lapses could be accommodated. Sonny's delivery is part rap singer, part racing commentator, and sprinkled with colourful, archaic expressions - after thumping his wife's new partner with a baseball bat, he boasts: "I beat him like a one-legged stepchild". When he moves, he has a Swagart swagger; he claps to himself as he walks, his enormous arms curving before him like crab claws.

THE BIG PICTURE



RYAN GILBEY

THE APOSTLE (12)
DIRECTOR: ROBERT DUVAL
STARRING: ROBERT DUVAL,
FARRAH FAWCETT, MIRANDA
RICHARDSON, BILLY BOB
THORNTON
RUNNING TIME: 134 MIN

Sometimes his dogged buoyancy can be sinister, like when he bounds up the garden path, his jaunty jarring with the object of his mission: to confront his wife about her infidelity. At other points, Duvall identifies a certain absurdity in Sonny without mocking him - he's the most restless figure in the string of preachers lined up at the microphone like a wrestling tag-team, and the Vegas grandeur of his white suit is diminished when he's forced to huddle beneath a garish, 10-cent umbrella.

But at full pelt on a church stage, he's a force of nature. This is imaginatively conveyed early on in the movie, when Sonny delivers a sermon to a Mexican congregation. The tiny, middle-aged woman who acts as translator not only interprets his words but also his movements. Assuming his purposeful stride and imitating the ripple of his trembling limbs, she suddenly seems bigger, even brutish, distended by the passion for which she is a channel.

Duvall's complete immersion in the role can make your head spin, and it's a clever reflection of the way Sonny surrenders himself to God. Sonny's impulses are very primal - they don't pass through any kind of social filter, which is why his enthusiasm can be as shocking and unpalatable as his anger.

The picture doesn't judge his devotion, and there's only one moment which feels even mildly editorialised, as Sonny stands at his bedroom window gazing at God, and the film cuts to a shot of him from across the street, his writhing body imprisoned behind the crucifix of the window frame.

The qualities which make Duvall's performance so riveting are diametrically opposed to those which make him an appropriate director for the picture. While he acts with the naked abandon of a condemned man getting a last shot at freedom, he adopts a more detached approach behind the camera. I think



As Sonny in 'The Apostle', Robert Duvall (above right, with John Beasley as Brother Blackwell) rigorously challenges his audience's empathy

it's a decision on which the success of the entire movie pivots. In *Priest* or *Tommy*, two films which imagine the pop star as modern day messiah, it's not only the characters who are hoisted into the pulpit - you're seeing the director as preacher man too. And in *Birdy*, Alan Parker entirely bought into his hero's belief in himself as a feathered deity, foregoing all intellectual distance in the process. Duvall doesn't make the mistake of blurring Sonny's spirit with that of the film. He won't work the audience; he pulls you back.

Sometimes he even pulls you away. There's a rather laboured

conflict introduced between Sonny, who has reinvented himself as "the Apostle EF", and a local bigot (Billy Bob Thornton) who questions his authenticity. Sonny chooses to follow Old rather than New Testament teachings in reply, and invites the thug outside.

Despite the lure of violence, and the congregation shuttling along the pews for a ringside seat on the altercation, Duvall has the camera cautiously approach a woman at the back of the church - Toosie (Miranda Richardson), whom Sonny has been wooing, and whose expression of admiration curdling into unease mirrors and deepens our own.

Using the camera as a tool of surveillance rather than hyperbolic manipulation is something characteristic of Robert Altman, with whom Duvall worked on *M*A*S*H*, and there are traces of Altman too in the way the film weaves a musical tapestry out of its actors' overlapping voices, both in speech and song.

What Duvall does use of David Mansfield's score is employed sparingly, and is never utilised to force an emotional reaction - the most ornate that the music gets is when Sonny is strolling around his parish and we hear an excitable flurry of banjos, mandolins and slide guitars which could feasibly be the instruments playing in his head as he gleefully searches for a new flock.

The people that Sonny collects around him are jolly types with a collective identity rather than individual ones, although as a writer Duvall still manages to refrain from romanticising them into a mass of big hearts and twinkly eyes. A benign fisherman who allows Sonny to pitch a tent on his lawn lays awake in bed, twitching the curtain nervously and clutching a rifle to his chest just to be on the safe side. These days even Good Samaritans carry guns.

ROBERT DUVAL TALKS ABOUT 'THE APOSTLE'

"They say the true American art form is the preacher. Both black and white. They're so alive, great on their feet"

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ALSO SHOWING

The Girl with Brains in Her Feet Roberto Bangura (15) ■ Stiff Upper Lips Gary Sinyor (15) ■ A Thousand Acres Jocelyn Moorhouse (15) ■ The Grass Harp Charles Matthau (15) ■ Soul Food George Tillman, Jr (15) ■ Hotel de Love Craig Rosenberg (15) ■ The Big Swap Niall Johnson (18)

A sex siren for the 70s

IF YOU believe what you see in *The Girl with Brains in Her Feet*, then Leicester was the most oversexed city in England in the 1970s. No wonder the film's teenage heroine Jack (Joanna Ward) is in such a tizzy with her hormones - at just 13 years old, she has to contend with an English teacher who reads the raciest passages of *Lady Chatterley's Lover* aloud to his class, and an art tutor who unveils a baby-oiled Adonis as the new life drawing project. This could be a deliberate attempt to make the pupils so bored with sex that they'll automatically choose the chess club over the back of the bicycle shed.

The film is a jaunty if unoriginal take on the rites of passage genre, taking its cue from P.T. Young's *Kipperbang*, while cashing in on the current 1970s revival (*The Ice Storm*, *Boogie Nights*, the forthcoming *Velvet Goldmine*). It's brightened by a lively script from Jo Hodges and a star-spangled performance by Joanna Ward. This young actress sparkles - she has joyous bushy bunches, and her face is a blank mask that breaks into a crazy smile at unexpected moments.

The story of Jack's loss of innocence would be unexceptional without Hodges' talent for

integrating simmering tensions into her screenplay. Jack is a promising athlete whose chilled-out demeanour frustrates her coach (John Thompson). Taking her aside to urge her to train for a competition, he says blithely, "You never know, the other team might have some darkies up their sleeve," and Jack chuckles along, which might not be notable were she not of mixed-race parentage herself. Jack can't claim to possess a sense of cultural identity, but then she doesn't know she's entitled to one either. Her white mother helpfully introduces exotic elements at the tea-table - a plate of corn-on-the-cob ("lots of Africans and West Indians like it").

The Girl with Brains in Her Feet treads familiar territory - but with a spring in its step. The director, Roberto Bangura, conjures moments of magical tenderness that catch you off-guard. I liked the echo of *The Wizard of Oz* in the scene where Jack tries on her snazzy red running shoes and clicks her heels, but Bangura's neatest trick is to time the shot of Jack unzipping a classmate's trousers with the wailing siren which heralds the start of "Blockbuster" by The Sweet. Doesn't everyone hear a siren



Roberto Bangura's 'The Girl with Brains in Her Feet'

the first time they sample the sins of the flesh? Or is it just in Leicester?

Stumbling across one British film a week that you feel able to recommend is unusual enough. Finding two is a miracle. And when one of them is made by Gary Sinyor, who co-directed the abysmal *Leon the Pig Farmer* - well, pig farmers might fly. Yet Sinyor's new picture *Stiff Upper Lips* is one of the most cheerfully pleasurable British movies in recent memory. Fluffy in tone but painfully precise in its observations, the film is a series of inspired riffs on Merchant/Ivory productions. At one point, a toff is caught by his mother (Prunella Scales) with

his nose in the new Forster "Any good?" she enquires. "I find it difficult to relate to the characters," he replies, "but the locations are enchanting."

Sinyor and his co-writer Paul Simpkin have crafted at least 10 sublime, pristine gags, none of which I would care to spoil by repeating, though the performances deserve credit, especially Robert Portal as the witty, repressed homosexual, and Brian Glover as the earthy peasant who props up the bar in his local pub, *Scum of the Earth*.

A Thousand Acres is King Lear with combine harvesters. Jessica Lange, Michelle Pfeiffer and Jennifer Jason Leigh

are the troublesome daughters, who get to do lots of bonding and crying, all the while playing with their hair and hugging themselves - the sort of routine that impresses Academy voters but not me. I felt most sorry for Jason Robards - imagine being cast as Lear and then finding out you've got lines like "You hitches drive me goddamn crazy!"

The rest of the week's releases deserve only the most cursory of mentions, and none of your money. *The Grass Harp* transforms a Truman Capote novel into a below-par episode of *The Waltons*, with a young boy (Edward Furlong) maturing among a town of Southern eccentrics, including Walter Matthau (the director's father) and Jack Lemmon, the Two Ronnies of American cinema. *Soul Food* is a black *Parenthood*, with all the sentimentality and studied eccentricity which this implies.

Hotel de Love is an Australian romantic comedy severely hampered by the fact that its leading man looks like a more deranged Anthony Perkins. Last and not least, *The Big Swap* is a starchy British drama in which five couples swap partners; it's so dull, it could give wife-swapping and group sex a bad name.

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NOW SHOWING AT CINEMAS NATIONWIDE

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT LISTINGS ARE ON PAGES 15 & 16

Hollywood's celestial craze is a reaction against materialism (and it really pulls in the punters). By Jeff Dawson

How to make a film take off: just add wings

Pensive men in trench-coats eavesdrop on private thoughts, hover over the heartbroken, slide up to soothe the sick. You can't see them but they're watching, perched on high, curious as to the frail yet sensuous nature of humankind – not least Seth who, on falling in love with a mortal, takes the plunge to become part of our corporeal world.

If the theme of *City Of Angels* sounds familiar, it's because it's a remake of the lauded German film, *Wings Of Desire* (1988). Of course, Hollywood being Hollywood, no one ever admits as much ("We always looked at it more as an inspiration than a remake," insists Brad Silberling, director of the new version). But even though *City Of Angels* has been heralded critically, one can't help but notice it marks a sweeping trend – not the one which dictates that every idea issued by Hollywood these days should be a recycled one, but of the current American ad for all things angelic.

John Travolta, of course, made a splash last year as the eponymous fallen seraph in *Michael*; Denzel Washington played a heavenly body in *The Preacher's Wife* (another remake); a revamped *Angels In The Outfield* took a recent turn around the bases. Even Britain's own *A Life Less Ordinary* was orchestrated by agents from the hereafter. And there are others preparing to dance upon the pin-head. Ben Affleck and Matt Damon continue their miraculous ascension as renegade cherubs in *Dogma*; Brad Pitt is the vacationing Angel Of Death in *Meet Joe Black* (a spruced-up *Death Takes A Holiday*). The symbolism exists everywhere – from Greg Kinnear posing in front of feathered wings for *Dear God*, to Claire Danes sporting a dinky pair of flutterers in *Romeo + Juliet*.

"For whatever reason, there are times when there is this collective consciousness and it moves in one direction or another," gushes Chuck Roven, *City Of Angels* producer. "I don't know why. It might be because of the Millennium, you know?"

Ah yes, the Millennium. In *Tinseltown* much is made of the impending watershed, which, like El Niño, seems a blanket explanation to be used at will. But, given that Hollywood is in the throes of a spiritual revival that has seen it subjects

flocking to Buddhism, Scientology and Kabbalah (a formerly obscure branch of Jewish mysticism), there may be some truth in it – especially given other spiritually tinged films of late such as *Phenomenon*, *Contact*, *The Apostle*, *Seven Years In Tibet* and *Kundun*. Even mortality-questioning movies about volcanoes, meteors and giant lizards can be construed as part of the movement.

"Terrorism, the testing of atomic bombs, in this climate of fear, people are looking for something to comfort them. Angels are traditionally seen as comforters," chirrups Eileen Freeman, upon whose book *Touched By Angels*, the hit TV series *Touched By An Angel* was based. "The fact that we've come to a very materialistic period, striving to outdo one's next door neighbour is very important. What happens is that constant attitude starves the spirit and so people start to look for spiritual answers."

Freeman should know. A self-styled "Angelologist", her views fit with the adoration that has seen millions rush to make bestsellers of Sophie Burnham's *The Book Of Angels*, James Redfield's *The Celestine Prophecy* and Betty J. Eadie's *Embraced By The Light*. In addition to the 150 angel-themed titles currently available, America's tabloids fill with tales of winged visions who pluck drowning children from the sea, save rock climbers from plummeting or – a speciality – avert fatal car crashes. A whole spin-off industry is churning out angel playing cards, wrapping paper, T-shirts, screen-savers, mouse mats and brooch pins – the kind popularised by Hillary Clinton and prosecutor Marcia Clark (whose heavenly guide seemed to go AWOL during the OJ Simpson trial).

Need memorabilia? Call the Angel Collectors Club of America. Care to set up shop? HALOS – that's Helping Angel Lovers Own Stores – will lay on hands. Spiritual small talk? Freeman's own Angel Watch foundation – complete with bi-monthly magazine – will steer you towards any of the 72 per cent of Americans (according to a recent Gallup poll) who believe.

The current touchy-feely climate (where, even here, a faith healer is deemed a crucial part of England's World Cup campaign) has allowed the celestial seasoning to permeate

every aspect of life (Freeman's fourth book, *The Angels' Little Diet Book*, inspired by a winged chum who helped her lose 10 stone). Angels R Us.

"Angels are not demanding. They ask for nothing in return. They do not demand that you go to church on Sunday," concurs Professor Jaime Lara, Professor of Religious Art at Yale, citing their cross-cultural, non-denominational bearing as particularly user-friendly (they crop up in Christianity, Judaism, Islam and, in parts, Buddhism). "Americans like the fact that angels don't demand any specific code of behaviour, especially sexual behaviour. If Barbarella could make love to an angel, and if John Travolta could mess around while on a heavenly mission, well, we Americans can relate to that. Angels of the 1990s aren't churchy or preachy. They have their peccadilloes and, perhaps, anyone of us can get our wings."

The current clamour doesn't mean it is purely a 1990s phenomenon. In movie terms, *Here Comes Mr. Jordan* (1941 – remade in 1978 as *Heaven Can Wait*), *The Horn Blows At Midnight* (1945), *It's A Wonderful Life* (1946), *A Matter Of Life And Death* (1946) and *The Bishop's Wife* (1947) are classics of the genre. Not that film interpretations don't incense those in the know.

"Some of them are absolutely ludicrous. John Travolta as Michael The Archangel? Angels don't do those things," tuts Freeman. "I've had personal experience. My problem with most of the movies about angels is that they present them as recycled human beings in search of good deeds."

The traditional view of angels is that they are immortal spirits that predate the earth. (Though she does confess a fondness for *It's A Wonderful Life*, despite Hollywood's persistence with "giving angels names like Clarence".)

Of course, angels come in handy, too, when screenwriters want a

mouthpiece for some moral insight, words that don't sound right coming from a pasty-faced mortal, and which is why a single angel will always be more credible than a host of philosophising aliens – although it seems no coincidence that in one fell swoop, angel encounters have supplanted "close" ones as the tabloid sensation du jour.

Indeed FEER, the Program for the Earth. Two fallen angels have other ideas and put paid to the scheme. The film itself put paid to Benny's career – he never played a lead again.

It's A Wonderful Life (1946) Reprised in cinemas last Christmas, a film that smoothes you in kisses. Impish guardian angel Henry Travers talks James Stewart out of suicide and gets a promotion in the process. One of the few angel films casting the heavenly host in a good light.

A Matter Of Life And Death (1946) More heavenly bureaucracy as angel Marius Goring and others argue over the life of injured bomber pilot, David

IN-FLIGHT MOVIES – ANGELS ON FILM

Extraordinary Experience Research, run by the medical faculty at Harvard, deals with both types of revelation, suggesting that most poor souls, blinded by all that white light, are still a little confused as to which aspect of the heavens it might hail from.

Perhaps there is a simpler answer to the film revival in that, prompt-

ed by the 1990 film *Ghost*, which proved a box office sleeper hit, studio execs, assuming they had hit upon a brand new supernatural genre (at least one in limbo since Chevy Chase's *Oh Heavenly Dog* in 1980), rushed into development of any spirited script they could get their greedy hands on, most of which have now come to fruition.

"There is a certain follow-my-leader approach to film-making. You know, if something makes money, that's a common market force in any industry," says Ian Nathan, editor of the film magazine *Empire*.

"I think what stimulates writers most of all is other films they've seen. They think, 'Oh, I've got a good twist

on the angel thing.' It's a simple pitch – 'It's *Wings Of Desire* with Nicolas Cage and Meg Ryan.' Producers get it right away."

In other words, there's no business like show business. Maybe Sean Daniel, producer of *Michael*, puts it best. "If there's room in the Scriptures," he says, "There's room in our culture..."

Claire Danes in 'Romeo + Juliet' is just part of an angel population explosion



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IN FOCUS

JESSICA LANGE

Tough Tootsie: Successful, talented, forty-ish and blonde is a hard role to play in Hollywood. But Jessica Lange does it well. Since her debut reaping Fay Wray's role in the 1976 remake of *King Kong*, Hollywood has nominated Lange Best Actress five times. She has picked up the Oscar twice. Apart from a couple of films, the ones which it would have been kinder not to have made (never mind chosen), she has consistently delivered acclaimed performances, particularly in *The Postman Always Rings Twice* (1981), *Tootsie* (1981) and *Blue Sky* (1994).

Cover girl: Jessica Lange's first producer, Dino De Laurentiis, did a superb PR job on her modelling credentials. Lange says, "I hated being lumped into that category of model-turned-actress." She has quite a few other credentials for idolisation: she got an art scholarship to university then turned drop-out and travelled the world with her new husband (a Spanish photographer by the name of Paco Grande) in a

pick-up truck; she was studying under the famed mime instructor, Etienne Decroux, and dancing with the Opéra Comique but dropped both to wait on tables at the Lion's Head in Greenwich Village; and Lange is the mother of three who has also fostered a handicapped Romanian child.

Natural Born Star: Lange's childhood reads like a play by Arthur Miller. Her father was a salesman, her mother a housewife and her childhood illness was soothed away by acting out Olivia De Havilland's death-bed scene in *Gone With The Wind*. Her second husband (after Señor Grande) was the Russian defector and ballet king, Mikhail Baryshnikov, and she currently lives on a horse farm in Virginia with the equally elusive Sam Shepard (actor, playwright, bohemian). You couldn't make it up.

Blonde ambition: Lange, however, has made mistakes in her play of the Hollywood

star system (and not just allowing herself to cost much less than a 40ft co-star). Think the token women between Tim Roth and Liam Neeson in *Rob Roy*. Or how it is more likely that contemporaries Michelle Pfeiffer or Meryl Streep are given roles as the lead female. In short, critical acclaim comes to Lange, but she hasn't got (nor seems to want) the Hollywood profile and commercial films. You probably won't see Lange in a cat suit or sharing centre stage with Goldie Hawn and a crew of special effects. Instead, you could have Jessica Lange in the flesh because her next project is rumoured to mean a return to London's West End (where she has previously played Blanche Du Bois in Tennessee Williams's *A Streetcar Named Desire*).

'A Thousand Acres' is released today.

JENNIFER RODGER

هكذا من الأصل

An obsession beyond faith

To bring 'The Apostle' to fulfilment, Robert Duvall not only had to immerse himself in the style of a Pentecostal preacher, he also had to pay for it himself by doing acting 'jobs' for other directors. Interview by James Mottram

Most preachers claim they don't go to movies. I was trying to track down this one from a small town in Georgia who had a great style. He said to my assistant: "Oh yeah, I heard he was in a famous movie, that he had a famous line - 'I love the smell of gasoline in the morning!'." Robert Duvall, who as Lieutenant Colonel Kilgore first uttered this misquoted appreciation for dawn Napalm raids in *Apocalypse Now*, is discussing *The Apostle*. The story of a Pentecostal preacher who flees to a Louisiana bayou after clubbing his wife's lover dead, Duvall's Sonny is as fervent an advocate of God as Kilgore was about the thrill of war. While Duvall may have spent time in the army, been fathered by a Rear Admiral and been Oscar-nominated for his marine pilot in *The Great Santini*, faith - in his work and life - has proved the more enduring.

A film that Duvall wrote, directed, financed and performed in (winning him his fifth Academy nomination of his career), it has been a project gestating for over 15 years. But, as he explained, the attraction went back even further: "I had seen a preacher 30 years ago in a small church in Arkansas, I was always fascinated in that manifestation. They say the true American art form is the American preacher. Both black and white. The style they preach, they're so alive, so great on their feet. Clinton reminds me of a Pentecostal preacher. He's from Arkansas, could stand in front of a black congregation and speak for an hour. To try and catch that style was interesting to me."

The man frequently dubbed the "American Olivier", known for his ability to immerse himself fully into a role, more than just captures the mannerisms. Duvall's Sonny, who baptises himself the eponymous Apostle, in order to gather together a new congregation in a makeshift church, is a remarkable creation.

With support generated for *The Apostle* by playwright and screenwriter Horton Foote Jr, Duvall's Sonny is a direct descendant from the pair's previous work together. While Francis Ford Coppola may have directed Duvall in his most iconic parts (Kilgore and *The Godfather's* Tom Hagen), Foote Jr has provided Duvall with some of his most significant, if not best-recalled, roles. After a stint on stage in New York where he won an Obie for his role as longshoreman Eddie in Arthur Miller's *A View From A Bridge*, Duvall played the pivotal part of the retarded Arthur "Boo" Radley in Foote Jr's screenplay of Harper Lee's *To Kill A Mockingbird*.

Their next collaboration, the little-seen *Tomorrow*, Duvall still rates as his best work, in which he played a Mississippi farmer with an accent so convincing even the locals thought he was one of them. While 1991's *Convicts*, based on Foote Jr's play about a Louisiana sugar plantation owner, was uneven (despite good work from Duvall), it was Bruce Beresford's *Tender Mercies*, written and produced by Foote Jr, that won Duvall his only Oscar in 1983. A self-destructive Country and Western singer who is baptised by his new wife, the part, for which Duvall spent months listening to tapes



Robert Duvall's preacher is a remarkable creation. He simply becomes the man

of the Texan accent, is a precursor to Sonny. Duvall has played a hard-nosed TV executive in *Network*, an Orwellian techie in *THX-1138*, Dr Watson in *The Seven Per-Cent Solution*, Jesse James in *The Great Northfield Minnesota Raid* and the puritanical doctor in *M*A*S*H*. He has acted alongside John Wayne in *True Grit* and Marlon Brando, who he admits intimidated

him, in *The Chase*. But in his role as Sonny, one instantly forgets the show-reel. He simply becomes the man. Inspired by the naturalism of Ken Loach's work (a lifelong fan, Duvall championed the director in America after *Kas* came out), *The Apostle* also draws from a tradition of Southern literature, in which the charismatic stranger heads for a small town to transform the com-

munity. Citing works by Faulkner, Carson McCullers and Flannery O'Connor's *Wise Blood*, Duvall saw Ned Beatty's street-corner evangelist in John Huston's adaptation of the latter as the only faithful on-screen rendering of the profession he had seen. "Films tend to caricature preachers," he notes. "It would've been too easy to portray Sonny as a violent, unlikeable or cor-

rupt man." Thoroughly aware of the extremes religion can inspire - "from Mother Theresa to paedophilic preachers in Southern Ireland" - Duvall's Sonny, both in writing and execution, is a maelstrom of contradiction, dealing with the guilt for his crime. "Sonny always had redemption in him," says the 69-year-old Duvall, frequently noted as reserved with

the press, but on this occasion forth-coming. "He does not suddenly just see the light. It's on-going. He's human. He commits a crime, but he's not as bad as King David in the Bible who sent a man to die deviously. Sonny would never do that. He accepts that he has to pay the secular price." Duvall hawked the project to every major studio and independent outfit, only to be faced

with indifference for a script that ran against Hollywood convention. Paying for the \$5m budget himself through work he calls "just jobs" - *The Scarlet Letter*, *Phenomenon* and the recent asteroid-disaster flick *Deep Impact* spring to mind - Duvall has a habit of directing unsupported films. Over two decades ago, his debut - a documentary about a Nebraskan Rodeo family called *We're Not the Jet Set* - received critical acclaim, but disappeared rapidly.

Angelo, My Love, a film he funded himself with \$1m six years later, went much the same way. Using, Loach-like, mainly non-actors, it was an anthropological study of the life of an 11-year-old gypsy boy, displaying a quest for truth in much the same manner as *The Apostle*.

A Christian Scientist himself, Duvall is quiet on his faith: "I have my own beliefs. I'm from a Protestant background. I believe in God and Jesus Christ. Believers probably think I'm going to Hell for this." A friend of his third wife, Sharon, who suffered from cervical cancer at the time he discovered she was having an affair with their pool cleaner three years ago, blamed their divorce (also his third) partially on his religion. "Her illness went against his beliefs that prayer cures sickness," they said.

But Duvall's concern for *The Apostle* went beyond his faith. "I hoped it would be accepted by the secular and religious communities. Billy Graham called it a poem for the 21st century. Whatever acclaim we get is because we did it the way we wanted to do it. For many years I was afraid of the project, but once we started I found it pretty harmonious."

His thinning blond hair apart, he shows little sign of ageing. Sprightly, he talks of taunting Francis Ford Coppola with his mother's recipe for Maryland crab-cakes; of riding pillion with flatmate Dustin Hoffman on a motor-scooter to meet Peter Fonda in the early Sixties when he hung out in New York with unknowns Gene Hackman and Jon Voight; of filming his favourite scene in *Godfather Part II* (when he tells Frank Pentangeli to kill himself in prison), favoured because actor Michael Vincente Gazzo was drunk all day. Obsessed by food, horses and the lingo he made a film based on the subject, while his ex was the only American who danced professionally with Tango Argentino when they toured, Duvall is gearing up to indulge in yet another passion, football. Having worked on another "job", the forthcoming *A Civil Nation* with John Travolta, he is currently developing a script about 1960s Scottish footballer "Wee" Jimmy Johnston - "a great dribbler" he claims, an antidote it seems to his dislike for limeys.

Admitting to being an admirer of the current crop of young Hollywood heaus (he cites Sean Penn, Gary Oldman and Johnny Depp), Duvall's speech infers that he pays more attention to his craft than the Hollywood shenanigans. "What that kid did in *Gilbert Grape* - that DiCaprio - is unbelievable. Kim Stanley once said in America there are a lot of great actors between the ages of 25 and 40, and after that something happens. I was kind of a late bloomer, so I figure I've got a lot to do."

The Apostle opens today

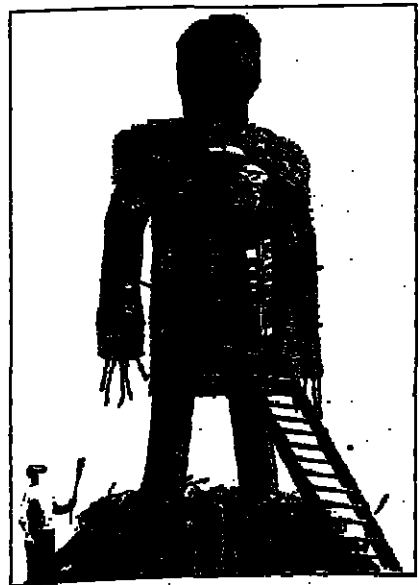
Pagan bangs and twangs

'The Wicker Man' soundtrack is available after 25 years. By Stephen Jelbert

ITS STAR, Christopher Lee, described it as "the best-scripted film I ever took part in", and in his wonderfully titled autobiography, *Tull, Dark and Gruesome*, hinted darkly that its surplus footage had eventually ended up as roadkill near Shepperton. Rod Stewart allegedly tried to buy and destroy it to prevent the naked cavortings of his then girlfriend, Britt Ekland, receiving further exposure. More recently, those arch pastoralists, Scottish rock band Teenage Fanclub, have covered a tune from it, and their leader Norman Blake even named his daughter Rowan after the character whose supposed disappearance triggers events. But it is only now, 25 years after its original cinema outing (as second feature to Nicolas Roeg's *Don't Look Now* - an unsettling evening out) that the soundtrack to *The Wicker Man* has been released.

It is indisputably the strangest cinematic tribute to paganism ever produced in this country, with Edward Woodward's rigidly Presbyterian policeman, sacrificed to fire in a fertility rite. Written by Anthony Shaffer, better known for *Sleuth* and *Frenzy*, the film has long been clouded in mystery, hindered by distribution and ownership problems out of its creators' control, and subject to dramatically differing cuts.

Jonathan Benton-Hughes of Trunk Records is responsible for bringing the soundtrack to the public's attention. Trunk have achieved recognition for their compilations from the Bosworth Music Archive, with tracks created as incidental music using the most advanced techniques the sixties could offer. Never before



The effigy burnt in the cult film

available, many of these snippets are already becoming familiar through the sample hungry world of dance music. Benton-Hughes, deeply into soundtracks and other memorabilia, found the challenge of *The Wicker Man* irresistible, and took over two years to untangle the legal minefields involved, just pipping some rather larger players. "So many people after it," he says, "Even private detectives were involved."

But mere business was hardly the motivation. "It's a little monster, mate. It's

been under my skin for a few years now," he admits. "I saw a video of the Alex Cox cut for BBC2 a few years ago, and I thought it was great. The most peculiar thing I'd seen for ages. It had all these noises, twangs and boings. Then there's naked women in graveyards, and the music is fab." He shrugs, as if to say: "what more could you want?" Certainly the soundtrack, produced by Paul Giovanni, an American devoted to the idea of representing the isolated island community of the film through accurate local music, is a true oddity. Alongside incidental noises, it includes lovingly crafted four-traditional folk numbers like "Corn Rigs" (based on a Robert Burns poem), the gorgeous "Willow's Song" (mimed by Ekland in the film to a vocal by someone once remembered as a "young girl we found in London"), and the climactic version of the genuinely ancient "Summer is a woman in", complete with the sound of conflagration. Not really a collection of songs like modern soundtracks ("They date movies horribly"), but more an evocation of plot, the record works just as well as an ambient piece.

With events such as the annual lighting of a similar figure at Glastonbury and America's Burning Man event in the Nevada desert, such rites seem more contemporary than ever. Perhaps on its 25th anniversary we might even get to see *The Wicker Man* back on the big screen at last. And if you should find yourself in the Machars peninsula in Southwest Scotland, apparently part of one leg still stands, opposite a caravan site. Paganistically enough.

CLASSIFIED

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More sex please, we're British

A black and white photograph showing a man lying in a hospital bed, looking up towards a medical professional who is standing by the head of the bed. The man appears to be in a state of distress or discomfort. The medical professional is wearing a white coat and a cap. The background is dark and indistinct.

'The Big Swap' opens tomorrow.
'Guru In Seven' opens 10 July

[illegible]

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Figgis's delicate tale is often a bit precious for its own good, but Snipes's vulnerable performance is just the most obvious of the film's quirky diversions. Figgis excels in fermenting the tipsy brew of chance and desire that intoxi-

VIDEOWATCH

cates Snipes and Kinski. It's pity that the rest of the film is held hostage to this opening. Ming-Na Wen as Snipes's wife struggles to expand the demanding caricature she's asked to play and Kinski is just eye candy. Joe Esterhaus penned the original script, and there's something crude about a gay AIDS sufferer laying down the emotional law for his emotionally confused heterosexual friends and family. There's less to this than meets the eye but it tries hard to make it more.

3/5

Copland (15), Miramax (available to rent now)
Lots of noise was made about Sly Stallone's self-reinvention

as an actor in this lethargic comedy-drama. In a sleepy New Jersey town run by corrupt NYPD officers (you can always spot bent copper by his horrendous taste in two-tone shirts and Harvey Keitel turns up in some shockers), Stallone, kept off the force proper by a bad ear, plays a docile sheriff willing to turn a blind eye to queer going on: following the death of two black kids in questionable circumstances, the offending cop re-appears in Stallone's hometown the day after he apparently committed suicide.

Stallone isn't bad, but you sense that most of his artistic endeavour has been taken up choosing a part that won't take him. If the price of nothing

down the Italian Stallion is playing a one-trick nag, then so be it, he seems to say Stallone hammers from scene to scene in a daze and, apart from the slight return of seeing the former action star's character punished in this film for a heroic rescue as a teenager, Stallone has little to do to embellish his transformation from dopey, thwarted and shady, to dopey, thwarted and redeemed.

It's a pity then that the film skewers itself towards his conceits (an inferiority complex in love for sheriff, his unrequited love for the woman he rescued) and ignores some of the better characters: Robert De Niro brings his usual gratifying detail to the Internal Affairs officer who is investigating the cop Harvey Keitel, to whom you also wish director James Mangold had paid more attention.

NEW FILMS

NOWHERE (18)
Director: Gregg Araki
Starring: James Duval, Rachel True, Nathan Sexton, Shannon Doherty
One-man film factory Gregg Araki returns to the nihilistic landscape of *Totally F***ed Up* with another hallucinatory journey through an LA underground inhabited by young ambisexual drifters, sadomasochists, druggies, airheads - and, this time around, a few aliens for good measure. It's good to see the elegantly wasted James Duval, as alienated teen Dark Smith, returning to his low-budget roots with Araki after a starring role in *Independence Day*. Intoxicating stuff.

RED CORNER (15)
Director: Jon Avnet
Starring: Richard Gere, Bai Ling, Bradley Whitford
Richard Gere usually exercises a bit of discrimination when choosing his projects, but his very public pro-Tibet stance must have blinded him to the failings of this clunking piece of anti-Chinese propaganda.

In Beijing to sell trashy American TV programmes to a Chinese network, Gere finds himself framed for murder and railroaded by the brutal legal system. But the insights *Red Corner* offers into the Chinese brand of totalitarianism are swamped by the clichéd depiction of ruthless party cadres (they practically say "We have ways of making you talk") and repetitive courtroom scenes, which mostly revolve around the issue of whether Gere can hear the simultaneous translation of proceedings through his headset.

DAD SAVAGE (18)
Director: Betsan Morris Evans
Starring: Patrick Stewart, Kevin McKidd
Patrick Stewart sheds his *Star Trek* image to play Dad Savage, a tulip-growing, Country & Western-obsessed East Anglian crime boss who turns very nasty indeed when two of his employees try to run off with his life savings.

Strikingly shot in the bleak expanses of the Lincolnshire fens by first-time director Betsan

Morris Evans, this is an original stab at reinventing the British thriller. There are strong performances, but a *Usual Suspects*-inspired structure of flashbacks within flashbacks conspires to make a raw, brutal little story frustratingly hard to follow.

THE TASTE OF CHERRY (PG)
Director: Abbas Kiarostami
Starring: Homayon Ershadi, Adolhossein Bagheri, Alshin Bakhtiari
The joint winner of last year's *Palme d'Or* has taken a year to get a release over here, and it's not hard to see why. In *Cherry*, an Iranian man drives around the outskirts of Tehran looking for someone to help him commit suicide - it sounds like the average multiplex-goer's worst nightmare of an art movie. But thanks to naturalistic performances and director Abbas Kiarostami's pure shooting style, it's hypnotic and moving.

THE WEDDING SINGER (12)
Director: Frank Coraci
Starring: Adam Sandler, Drew Barrymore
A shamelessly dumb but very winning comedy about a hopelessly romantic wedding singer who falls in love with a waitress (Drew Barrymore), only to find that she's engaged to someone else. The 1985 setting allows for wonderfully grotesque fashions and a stream of terrible songs and retro in-jokes. And where else could you see Steve Buscemi singing Spandau Ballet?

HURRICANE STREETS (15)
Director: Morgan J Freeman
Starring: Brendan Sexton III, Shawn Elliot
Brendan Sexton III, who made an impression as the high-school bully in *Welcome to the Dollhouse*, is touchingly awkward as Marcus, a 15-year-old New Yorker, whose criminal lifestyle is offset by an almost saintly care for the no-hopers in his gang. But despite raw performances from the young unknowns, and a sheaf of awards from the Sundance Film Festival - the film never steers sufficiently clear from the usual kids and crime clichés.

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John Wrathall

GENERAL RELEASE

AFTERGLOW (15)
Two couples - *Afterglow* Nick Nolte and Julie Christie, and *Twentysomethings* Lara Flynn Boyle and Jonny Lee Miller - swap partners and wry aphorisms in the latest urbane romantic comedy from writer-director Alan Rudolph.

ANASTASIA (1)
In this new animated feature, all geographical identity has been jettisoned along with historical accuracy - and, for that matter, sanity, logic and good taste. *Anastasia* is as bullying and unruly as Disney animation at its worst.

AS GOOD AS IT GETS (15)
Jack Nicholson and Helen Hunt are thrown together in a film which benefits from the sparkiness of James L Brooks's writing and the cracking energy of the cast.

THE BIG LEBOWSKI (18)
"Dude" Lebowski (Jeff Bridges) is a long-haired relic from the 1970s who spends his days bumming around Los Angeles getting stoned and going bowling with his buddies. But there's another Lebowski in the vicinity and a case of mistaken identity sparks off one of the most stultifying mysteries ever.

BLUES BROTHERS 2000 (PG)
Eighteen years after the release of the startlingly unfunny *The Blues Brothers*, John Landis and his co-writer Dan Aykroyd have contrived to resurrect the story of Elwood Blues (Aykroyd) who, after the death of his brother, re-emerges from prison and decides to put the old band back together. The film is certainly all-out stupid, but it is also rather endearing.

THE BUTCHER BOY (15)
Neil Jordan's film of Patrick McCabe's blackly comic novel about a madman, precocious 12-year-old in 1960s Ireland has a macabre thrill about it that is genuinely seductive. Jordan's depiction of the world as seen through the deranged eyes of young Francis (the astounding Emmett O'Brien) is so rich and unpeeling that it pulls you into the movie in the manner of a Grimm fairytale.

DARK CITY (15)
Alex Proyas, director of *The Crow*, returns with another over-the-top killer thriller. Amnesia-suspected serial killer Rufus Sewell is pursued by four inspectors (William Hurt, Steven Weber, Michael Wincup, and Michael Wincup) as one of a sinister breed of aliens known as "The Strangers".

DECONSTRUCTING HARRY (18) See *The Independent Recommends*, right.

DEEP IMPACT (12)
A meteor the size of New York is on a collision course with the Earth unless superstar astronaut Robert Duvall and his team can intercept it. Ropy characterisation and the complete absence of wit or energy are only the worst things about this heavy-handed disaster movie.

FISTS IN THE POCKET (NC)
A new print of Marco Bellocchio's 1985 classic. *The General* (15) John Boorman's best film in two decades charts the career of Dublin gangster Martin Cahill, who ran rings round the Garda with a series of heists before the IRA put him out of business in 1944.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS (15)
Dickens update with Ethan Hawke.

THE HANGING GARDEN (15)
Say hello, Sweet William, returns home for the wedding of his sister (Kerry Fox), who is marrying the boy that William once had a crush on, in this disarming drama.

HAPPY TOGETHER (15)
Giddy tour of modern urban life, structured around the violently unpredictable romance between two men who arrive in Argentina from

Hong Kong, and fall into a cycle of breaking up and making up.

JACKIE BROWN (15)
In *Jackie Brown*, the eponymous flight attendant (Pam Grier) and mobster Ordeal (Samuel L Jackson), for whom she's moonlighting, for take centre stage. But the movie's main focus is the desperation of each of its characters to make something of their lives before it's too late. A new direction for director Tarantino, which may appeal to an audience he previously alienated.

LIVE FLESH (18)
A novel by Ruth Rendell is the unlikely origin of Pedro Almodóvar's most accomplished film to date, though the action has been shifted to Madrid and crammed with sexual symbolism so potent it leaves you reeling.

LOLITA (18)
Adrian Lyne's remake of Kubrick's stylish Nabokov adaptation lacks spirit and adventure.

A novel by Ruth Rendell is the unlikely origin of Pedro Almodóvar's most accomplished film to date, though the action has been shifted to Madrid and crammed with sexual symbolism so potent it leaves you reeling.

THE MAGNIFICENT AMBERSONS (U)
A welcome re-release for Orson Wells' 1942 masterpiece about a wealthy family whose conflicting emotions tear them apart.

MARTHA - MEET FRANK, DANIEL & LAURENCE (15)
This intermittently engaging romantic comedy sees Martha, an American visiting London on a whim, going on separate dates with three men who turn out to be best friends.

MY SON THE FANATIC (15)
Hanif Kureishi establishes an opposition between an agreeable, progressive Pakistani taxi driver and his son, who has his sights set on becoming a fundamentalist Muslim.

ONCE UPON A TIME... WHEN WE WERE COLORED (NC)
Nostalgic look back to life in 1940s Mississippi

THE REAL BLONDE (15)
Tom Dillio's prickly satire on the fashion industry doesn't have enough original or incidental ideas to go around, but it is charmingly played by a game cast, and littered with surprises and fizzy one-liners.

SLIDING DOORS (15)
Sliding Doors is a romantic comedy set in the space-time continuum, sending its heroine, Gwyneth Paltrow, off into two separate realities at the same time, with two different suitors (John Hannah and John Lynch). Just what the world needed: a humorous reinterpretation of Kieslowski's *Blind Chance*.

STAR KID (PG)
Amiable children's adventure about a young boy (Joseph Mazzello from *Jurassic Park*) who's called upon to save the universe. What it lacks in budget, it makes up for in imagination.

TITANIC (12)
Rose (Kate Winslet) is about to marry into obscene wealth, but has deserted her fiancé at the last minute for Jack (Leonardo DiCaprio), a ragamuffin from the wrong side of the tracks.

LES VOLEURS (18)
Intriguing and complex French thriller with the fine Daniel Auteuil as a seedy cop who becomes involved with a case implicating a teacher (Catherine Deneuve) and her lover.

WASHINGTON SQUARE (PG)
Bringing up the rear of the latest Henry James boom comes the story of the mousey New York heiress (Jennifer Jason Leigh) whose dour father (Albert Finney) forbids her marriage to a dashing but penniless suitor (Ben Chaplin).

WISHMASTER (18)
Pretentious but turgid gorefest.

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS



accused of parading misogynistic tendencies, though this is one of the dangers of positioning the camera directly at the centre of an unpleasant character's psyche (Mike Leigh's *Naked* had the same problem). Harry Block (Woody Allen) is a pustulant ball of a man, but don't confuse his values with those of the film - what makes the picture such a progression for Allen is that, for once, he's scrutinising rather than celebrating himself. On general release

Film Ryan Gilbey

London's more adventurous sensation-seekers are directed to the triple-bill by Jon Swanknajer playing throughout today. His two most feral and inspired features, *Alice* (a reworking of Lewis Carroll) and last year's *Conspirators of Pleasure* are showing alongside the disappointing *Faust* - though the visionary Czech on an off-day is still enough to give Wes Craven nightmares. *Everyman Cinema*, NW3 (0171-435 1525)

Deconstructing Harry (left) has been accused of parading misogynistic tendencies, though this is one of the dangers of positioning the camera directly at the centre of an unpleasant character's psyche (Mike Leigh's *Naked* had the same problem). Harry Block (Woody Allen) is a pustulant ball of a man, but don't confuse his values with those of the film - what makes the picture such a progression for Allen is that, for once, he's scrutinising rather than celebrating himself. On general release

Pop Tim Perry

Hip-hop is set to become one of the major sounds of this summer and there's no better way to celebrate that revival than with the first of a string of UK dates by Afrika Bambaataa, one of the original New York scratch DJs and the man often described as the "godfather of hip-hop". Plymouth, The Coopersage (01752 229275) 8.30pm



Headswim (right) wrap up the first half of a very successful year that has seen them shift from indie hopefuls to being a major label act which has garnered a Top 30 hit (the anthemic "Tourniquet"). By introducing a more eclectic vibe - from acoustic to psychedelic - these Essex boys have forsaken the sheer volume of old and come up with an exciting live experience. Manchester: Hop & Grape (0161-275 2930) 8pm

Classical Duncan Hadfield

Recovering from heart surgery, it's a pity Bernard Haitink won't be conducting his own well-programmed Mozart/Richard Strauss mini-season with the LSO over the coming week. Still, three worthy deputy baton-wielders have been found, starting this evening with Walter Weller (right) who tackles Mozart's *Jupiter Symphony* and Strauss's massive *Heldenleben*. A former leader of the Vienna Phil, Weller will bring a Classical Viennese panache to Mozart's final symphony for horns d'oeuvre. Barbican Hall, London EC2 (0171-638 8891) 7.30pm



This year's Aldeburgh Festival gets underway with Britten's transcendent setting of A Midsummer Night's Dream. A large and colourful cast is assembled for this production directed by James Robert Carson and conducted by Michael Rosewell. Snape Maltings, Aldeburgh (01728 453543) 7.30pm

CINEMA WEST END

AFTERGLOW (15)
Screen on Baker Street 2.40pm, 5.05pm, 8.35pm Clapham Picture House 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Phoenix Cinema 3.45pm, 8.45pm Odeon Haymarket 2pm, 6pm, 8.35pm (+ Short Stung) Screen on the Green 3.35pm, 8.35pm

AS GOOD AS IT GETS (15)
Virgin Fulham Road 6pm, 9.10pm ABC Panton Street 2pm, 5pm, 8pm

BABYMOON (15)
The Big Lebowski (18) Warner Village West End 1pm, 3.50pm, 6.40pm, 9.30pm UCI Whiteleys 6.10pm ABC Panton Street 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm, 11.15pm, 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 7pm, 9.30pm ABC Tottenham Court Road 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm Odeon Camden Town 1.25pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.45pm Screen on the Green 6.10pm Phoenix Cinema 1.15pm, 6.15pm

BLUES BROTHERS 2000 (PG)
Empire Leicester Square 12.40pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 9pm

DAD SAVAGE (18)
Warner Village West End 12.50pm, 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm ABC Piccadilly 1.15pm, 3.35pm, 8.05pm, 8.30pm

DARK CITY (15)
Ritz Cinema 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm Plaza 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.40pm Warner Village West End 11.55am, 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.20pm UCI Whiteleys 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm Odeon Camden Town 1.20pm, 2.25pm, 4.40pm, 6.55pm, 9.10pm UCI Trocadero 12.30pm, 2.35pm, 4.10pm, 7pm, 9.20pm Odeon Marble Arch 11.40am, 2.10pm, 4.40pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm

DECONSTRUCTING HARRY (18)
ABC Shaftesbury Avenue 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm

DEEP IMPACT (12)
UCI Whiteleys 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm Virgin Trocadero 12noon, 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm Empire Leicester Square 12noon, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm Virgin Fulham Road 12.30pm, 3.25pm, 6.10pm, 8.55pm Odeon Marble Arch 12.10pm, 3.05pm, 5.55pm, 8.50pm

THE GENERAL (15)
Warner Village West End 12.10pm, 3pm, 5.55pm, 8.40pm UCI Whiteleys 3.05pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm UCI Whiteleys 2.15pm, 4.45pm, 8.30pm Ritz Cinema 3.10pm, 6pm, 8.50pm Notting Hill Cinema 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm Odeon Camden Town 12.05pm, 2.55pm, 5.55pm, 8.45pm Virgin Fulham Road 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 6pm, 9pm

GOOD WILL HUNTING (15)
ABC Panton Street 2.10pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm

GREAT EXPECTATIONS (15)
UCI Whiteleys 7pm

THE HANGING GARDEN (15)
ABC Piccadilly 1.35pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm

HAPPY TOGETHER (15)
ABC Swiss Centre 3.10pm, 7.10pm

HURRICANE STREETS (15)
Virgin Haymarket 1pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

JACKIE BROWN (15)
Piazza 12.50pm, 4.15pm, 7.40pm

KUNDUN (12)
ABC Shaftesbury Avenue 2pm, 5pm, 8.20pm

L.A. CONFIDENTIAL (18)
ABC Panton Street 2pm, 5pm, 8pm

LIVE FLESH (18)
Curzon West End 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm (+ Short: It's Good to Talk) Virgin Chelsea 2pm, 5pm, 8pm Odeon Camden Town 12noon, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm Ritz Cinema 7pm Gate Notting Hill 9.45pm, 12.45pm, 3.20pm, 5.55pm, 8.35pm Clapham Picture House 1.45pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm Virgin Fulham Road 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

THE WEDDING SINGER (12)
Odeon Camden Town 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 9pm Odeon West End 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm ABC Baker Street 1.50pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm Odeon Kensington 9.40pm Clapham Picture House 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm ABC Tottenham Court Road 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm Ritz Cinema 2.25pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9.05pm Barbican Cinema 6.30pm, 8.40pm Virgin Chelsea 2pm, 5.20pm, 8pm UCI Whiteleys 1.55pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 9.15pm Odeon Marble Arch 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

CINEMA LONDON LOCALS

LOLITA (18)
Virgin Haymarket 8.15pm Warner Village West End 11.40am, 2.25pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm Odeon Kensington 6.10pm, 9.15pm

THE MAN IN THE IRON MASK (12)
Rio Cinema Wed 2.30pm

MARTHA - MEET FRANK, DANIEL & LAURENCE (15)
Virgin Chelsea 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.40pm, 9.15pm Odeon Kensington 7.20pm, 9.35pm Odeon West End 4.05pm, 8.50pm

MY SON THE FANATIC (15)
ABC Swiss Centre 1.20pm, 5.20pm, 9.10pm

NIL BY MOUTH (18)
Rio Cinema 4pm, 8.30pm

NOWHERE (18)
ICA Cinema 5pm, 9pm Metro 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

PAIN IS... (NC)
ICA Cinema 3.30pm

THE REAL BLONDE (15)
Metro 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm ABC Swiss Centre 1.10pm, 3.25pm, 5.50pm, 8.20pm

RED CORNER (15)
Virgin Trocadero 2.10pm, 5.20pm, 8.30pm UCI Whiteleys 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 9.25pm Plaza 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.55pm, 8.50pm Odeon Marble Arch 12.25pm, 3.15pm, 6.10pm, 9.15pm

THE REPLACEMENT KILLERS (18)
Virgin Trocadero 12noon, 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Virgin Chelsea 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm UCI Whiteleys 2.30pm, 4.55pm, 7.15pm, 9.45pm

SCREEN 2 (18)
Warner Village West End 12.40pm, 3.30pm, 6.50pm Virgin Trocadero 12noon, 2.50pm, 6.10pm, 9pm

SHALL WE DANCE? (PG)
ABC Swiss Centre 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.40pm

SLIDING DOORS (15)
Virgin Trocadero 2.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.40pm, Ritz Cinema 2.20pm, 4.20pm, 6.20pm UCI Whiteleys 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.30pm ABC Baker Street 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm ABC Tottenham Court Road 1.25pm, 4.05pm, 6.45pm, 9.25pm Virgin Fulham Road 1.50pm, 4.10pm, 7pm, 9.15pm Empire Leicester Square 12.20pm, 2.40pm, 5.30pm, 8pm

THE TASTE OF CHERRY (PG)
Renoir 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm

TITANIC (12)
Warner Village West End 12noon, 4pm, 8pm Plaza 2pm, 7pm

U.S. MARSHALS (15)
Warner Village West End Mon, Tue, 11.35am, 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm

LES VOLEURS (18)
Ritz Cinema 2pm

WASHINGTON SQUARE (PG)
Barbican Screen 6.15pm, 8.40pm Renoir 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm Screen on Baker Street 3.15pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm Ritz Cinema 4.10pm, 6.35pm, 9pm Virgin Haymarket 12.45pm, 3pm, 6.15pm Screen on the Hill 3.45pm, 6.45pm Gate Notting Hill 1.50pm, 4.15pm, 6.40pm Corzon Mayfair 12.45pm, 3.20pm, 5.55pm, 8.35pm Clapham Picture House 1.45pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm Virgin Fulham Road 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

THE WEDDING SINGER (12)
Odeon Camden Town 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 9pm Odeon West End 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm ABC Baker Street 1.50pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm Odeon Kensington 9.40pm Clapham Picture House 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm ABC Tottenham Court Road 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm Ritz Cinema 2.25pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9.05pm Barbican Cinema 6.30pm, 8.40pm Virgin Chelsea 2pm, 5.20pm, 8pm UCI Whiteleys 1.55pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 9.15pm Odeon Marble Arch 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

WISHMASTER (18)
Barbican Screen 6.15pm, 8.40pm Renoir 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm Screen on Baker Street 3.15pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm Ritz Cinema 4.10pm, 6.35pm, 9pm Virgin Haymarket 12.45pm, 3pm, 6.15pm Screen on the Hill 3.45pm, 6.45pm Gate Notting Hill 1.50pm, 4.15pm, 6.40pm Corzon Mayfair 12.45pm, 3.20pm, 5.55pm, 8.35pm Clapham Picture House 1.45pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm Virgin Fulham Road 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

THE WEDDING SINGER (12)
Odeon Camden Town 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 9pm Odeon West End 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm ABC Baker Street 1.50pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm Odeon Kensington 9.40pm Clapham Picture House 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm ABC Tottenham Court Road 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm Ritz Cinema 2.25pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9.05pm Barbican Cinema 6.30pm, 8.40pm Virgin Chelsea 2pm, 5.20pm, 8pm UCI Whiteleys 1.55pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 9.15pm Odeon Marble Arch 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

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16/LISTINGS

THE WEDDING SINGER 1.35pm, 3.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm. Wishmaster 8.40pm.

ODEON LIBERTY 2 (01703-729040) BR. Romford Blues Brothers 2000 12.30pm, 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm. Deep Impact 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm. Dark City 12.45pm, 1.25pm, 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm. Sliding Doors 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm. The Wedding Singer 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.40pm, 9pm. Wishmaster 2pm, 6.45pm.

SIDCUP ABC (0541-555131) BR. Sidcup Deep Impact 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm. The Wedding Singer 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm.

STAPLES CORNER VIRGIN (0870-907017) BR. Chickadee Dark City 2.30pm, 5pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm. Deep Impact 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm. Red Corner 2.10pm, 5.20pm, 8.30pm. The Replacement Killers 2pm, 4pm, 8.45pm, 9pm. Sliding Doors 2.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.40pm. The Wedding Singer 2pm, 8pm.

STREATHAM ABC (0870-902045) BR. Streatham Hill Deep Impact 2.10pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm. Red Corner 2pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm. Sliding Doors 2.30pm, 5.35pm, 8.35pm.

ODEON (0181-315 4219) BR. Streatham Hill & Brixton Cinemas Common The Big Lebowski 12.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.50pm. The Replacement Killers 2pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm. Sliding Doors 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm. The Wedding Singer 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm.

NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE (555 3366) BR/4. Stratford East The General 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9pm. Ular 1.30pm, 6.30pm. Shall We Dance? 4pm, 9pm. The Wedding Singer 2.50pm, 5pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm.

SUTTON UCI 6 (0990-888990) BR. Sutton & Morley Deep Impact 4pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm. The General 5.30pm. Great Expectations 7.15pm. Red Corner 3.15pm, 5.45pm. Star Kid 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 9.45pm. Star Kid 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 9.45pm. The Wedding Singer 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm. Wishmaster 8.30pm, 10pm.

TURNPIKE LANE CORONET (0181-886 2519) & Turnpike Lane. Dad Savage 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm. Dark City 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm. The Wedding Singer 4pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm.

UXBRIDGE ODEON (01895-813139) & Uxbridge Deep Impact 1.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm. The Wedding Singer 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm.

WALTHAMSTOW ABC (0870-902045) & Walthamstow Central Deep Impact 2.50pm, 5.20pm, 8.10pm. The Wedding Singer 1.35pm, 3.50pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm. Wild Things 1.30pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm. Wishmaster 3.30pm, 8.40pm.

WALTON THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01922-256263) BR. Walton on Thames Sliding Doors 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.30pm. The Wedding Singer 2.25pm, 4.45pm, 6.35pm, 8.50pm.

WELL HALL CORONET (0181-830 3351) BR. Eitham Deep Impact 3.20pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm. The Wedding Singer 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm.

WILLESDEN BELLEVUE (0181-830 0822) & Willesden Green The General 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm.

WIMBLEDON ODEON (0181-315 4222) BR/4. Wimbledon & South Wimbledon Anisatad Wed 4.50pm, 4.45pm, 7.45pm. The Big Lebowski 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.25pm. Dark City 1.25pm, 6.20pm. Deep Impact 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm. Martina - Meet Frank, Daniel & Laurence 3.30pm, 8.45pm. Sliding Doors 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm. The Wedding Singer 1.10pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm.

WOODFORD ABC (0181-888 3463) & South Woodford The Big Lebowski 8.10pm. Deep Impact 2.10pm, 5.40pm. Sliding Doors 2.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm. The Wedding Singer 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.20pm.

WOOLWICH CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR. Woolwich Arsenal Deep Impact 3.15pm, 5.50pm, 8.20pm. Red Corner 3.20pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm.

CINEMA

REPERTORY

LONDON CINE LUMIERE AT THE INSTITUT FRANCAIS Quai d'Orsay Place SW7 (0171-838 2144/2146) Love Affair (19) 8.30pm.

EVERYMAN Hollywood Vale NW3 (0171-435 1525) Affice (12) 1.15pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm. Conspirators Of Pleasure 4.35pm, 9.30pm, 11.45pm (Svenska Version) (15) 2.50pm, 7.45pm.

ICA The Mall SW1 (0171-930 3847) Nowhere (18) 5pm, 9pm. Pain (18) 6.30pm.

THE LUX Hoxton Square N1 (0171-684 0201) Peter Dinklage: Avant Garde Retrospective: Programme 2 6.30pm. Peter Dinklage: Avant Garde Retrospective: Programme 3 8.30pm.

NFT South Bank SE1 (0171-633 0374) cc 0171-928 3232 The Woodlanders (PG) 2.30pm, 6.20pm. Doublet: Television 1.10pm. Encounters With The Thing: Lecture: NFT Special Event 7.30pm. Slughter Of The Cock (1) (Stagi Tokoro): Contemporary Greece 8.15pm. Football Shorts 8.40pm.

PEPSI IMAX The Trocadero, Piccadilly Circus W1 (0171-494 4153) Everest (U) 1.15pm, 1.20pm, 3.25pm, 5.30pm, 7.35pm, 9.40pm. Across The Sea Of Time - A New York Adventure (S-D) (U) 12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.25pm, 6.30pm, 8.35pm, 10.40pm.

PHOENIX High Road N2 (0181-883 2233) cc 0181-444 6789 Afterglow (15) 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm. The Big

Lebowski (18) 1.15pm, 6.15pm. Smith's Feeling For Snow (15) 1.15pm. Afterglow (15) 3.45pm, 8.45pm.

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place WC2 (0171-437 8181) Boogie Nights (18) Junk Mail (Rudolph) (15) 3.45pm. The Rainmaker (15) 6pm.

RIO Kingsland High Street E8 (0171-254 6677) Sid And Nancy (18) 2pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm. Nil By Mouth 4pm, 8.30pm.

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS Crisp Road W6 (0181-741 2255) Cardiff (18) 6.45pm, 8.45pm. Twilight Of The Ice Nymphs 8.50pm.

WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE High Street, Brentford, Midd. (0181-568 1176) The Misfits (PG) 1.30pm. Washington Square (PG) 4.45pm, 9pm.

BRIGHTON BRIGHTON CINEMA THEQUE (01273-739970) Dreams That Money Can Buy (18) 8pm.

DUKE OF YORK'S CINEMA (01273-626261) Junk Mail (Rudolph) (15) 2pm, 7pm. Live Flesh (18) 4pm, 9pm.

BRISTOL WATERSHED (0117-925 3845) Washington Square (PG) 6pm, 8.25pm. Happy Together (15) 6.05pm, 8.15pm.

CAMBRIDGE ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444) Gattaca (15) 12.45pm, 7.20pm. Live Flesh (18) 3pm, 9.30pm. Mother And Son (U) 5.10pm.

CARDIFF CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-399666) Live Flesh (18) 2.30pm, 7.30pm. Up 'N' Under (12) 6.15pm. Shall We Dance? (PG) 8.20pm.

IPSWICH FILM THEATRE (01473-215544) Regeneration (15) 2.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm. Live Flesh (18) 6pm. Out Of The Past (PG) 8.15pm.

NORWICH CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) Good Will Hunting (15) 2.30pm, 5.45pm. Nowhere (18) 8.15pm.

PLYMOUTH ARTS CENTRE (01752-206114) Jackie Brown (15) 8pm.

CINEMA

COUNTRYWIDE

BASINGSTOKE THE ANVIL (01256-844244) Rothschild's Violin (PG).

WARNER VILLAGE (01256-818739) City Of Angels (12), Star Kid (PG), The Object Of My Affection (15), Sluff Lips (15), Mouse Hunt (PG), Red Corner (12), Dark City (15), Deep Impact (12), The Wedding Singer (12), Six Days, Seven Nights (12), Anastasia (U), Deconstructing Harry (18), The Little Mermaid (U), Wishmaster (18), Mad City (15), Mimic (15), Sliding Doors (15), The Land Girls (12), Blues Brothers 2000 (PG), The Borrowers (U), Titanic (12).

BATH ABC Cinema (01225-461730), City Of Angels (12), The Wedding Singer (12).

Little Theatre (01225-466822) Live Flesh (18), Washington Square (PG).

Robins Cinema (01225-461506) The Borrowers (U), Sliding Doors (15), The Object Of My Affection (15), Red Corner (12), The Little Mermaid (U), Deep Impact (12), Fairytale: A True Story (U), Six Days, Seven Nights (12).

CAMBRIDGE WARNER VILLAGE (01223-460442) Four Weddings And A Funeral (15), Sliding Doors (15), The Crow (15), Wishmaster (18), Mad City (15), Six Days, Seven Nights (12), Martina - Meet Frank, Daniel & Laurence 3.30pm, 8.45pm. Sliding Doors 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm. The Wedding Singer 1.10pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm.

WOODFORD ABC (0181-888 3463) & South Woodford The Big Lebowski 8.10pm. Deep Impact 2.10pm, 5.40pm. Sliding Doors 2.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm. The Wedding Singer 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.20pm.

WOOLWICH CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR. Woolwich Arsenal Deep Impact 3.15pm, 5.50pm, 8.20pm. Red Corner 3.20pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm.

HARLOW ODEON (01279-816802) City Of Angels (12), Resurrection (12), Mimic (15), Six Days, Seven Nights (12), Dark City (15), The Wedding Singer (12), Star Kid (PG).

VIRGIN (0870-90 70 713) The Wedding Singer (12), The Object Of My Affection (15), Mouse Hunt (PG), City Of Angels (12), Mad City (15), George Of The Jungle (U), Mimic (15), Dark City (15), Paws (PG), Deep Impact (12), Flipper (PG), Red Corner (15), The Replacement Killers (18), Sliding Doors (15), The Little Mermaid (U), Six Days, Seven Nights (12), Star Kid (PG).

NEWPORT ABC (01633-254326) The Little Mermaid (U), The Wedding Singer (12), Six Days, Seven Nights (12), Deep Impact (12), Red Corner (15).

VIRGIN (0541-550516) Mouse Hunt (PG), Titanic (12), The Wedding Singer (12), Blues Brothers 2000 (PG), Wishmaster (18), City Of Angels (12), Anastasia (U), Six Days, Seven Nights (12), The Object Of My Affection (15), The Giver (15), A Thousand Acres (15), Mimic (15), Dark City (15), Sliding Doors (15), Paws (PG), The Replacement Killers (18), Hotel De Love (15), Wild Things (18), Deep Impact (12), Star Kid (PG), Red Corner (15), Sliding Doors (15), The Little Mermaid (U), Deconstructing Harry (18), The Land Girls (12).

PONTARDAWE PONTARDAWE ARTS CENTRE (01792-863722) Resurrection Man (18), Asterix Conquers America (U), The Man In The Iron Mask (12).

PONTYPOOL Scala (01495-758038), Fairytale: A True Story (U), Paws (PG), Deep Impact (12).

THE LUX Hoxton Square N1 (0171-684 0201) Peter Dinklage: Avant Garde Retrospective: Programme 2 6.30pm. Peter Dinklage: Avant Garde Retrospective: Programme 3 8.30pm.

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PHOENIX High Road N2 (0181-883 2233) cc 0181-444 6789 Afterglow (15) 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm. The Big

THEATRE

WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today, times and prices for the week, running times include intervals. Seats at all prices - Seats at some prices - Sun, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat.

ART Richard Griffiths, Tony Haygarth and Malcolm Storry in Yasmina Reza's comedy about art and friendship, Myriad's Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736/cc 887 1111) & Leic Sq, Tue-Sat 8pm, [4] 3pm, [7] & Sun 5pm, £9.50-£27.50, 90 mins.

AS YOU LIKE IT Shakespeare's literary comedy contrasting the court and the natural world, The Globe New Globe Walk, SE1 (0171-401 9919) & London Bridge, in rep, tonight 7.30pm, ends 8 Sep, £5-£20, concs available.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Lavish family musical based on Disney's cartoon version of the favourite tale, Debutantes Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-656 1888) & Totl Ct Rd, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 7.30pm, [7] 2.30pm, £12.50-£32.50, 150 mins.

BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Russell's long-running Liverpool musical about two boys separated at birth, Phoenix Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733) & Leic Sq/Totl Ct Rd, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £10.50-£29.50, 165 mins.

BUDDY Musical biopic about the life of Buddy Holly, Strand Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930 8800) & Covent Garden/Charing X, Tue-Thu 8pm, Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30pm, mats Sun 4pm, £5-£30, 160 mins.

CATS Lloyd Webber's musical version of T.S. Eliot's poems, New London Park, WC2 (0171-405 0072) & 404, 407B & Covent Garden/Holborn, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [3] 7.30pm, £12.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

CHICAGO Ruthie Henshall stars in this hit Broadway musical, Adelphi Palace Lane, WC2 (0171-344 0055) & Charing X, Mon-Sat 8pm, [4] 7.30pm, £16-£36 (inc booking fee), 130 mins.

CLOSER Superb study of contemporary sexual relationships from Dealer's Choice author Patrick Marber, Lyric Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045) & Picc Circ, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 7.30pm, £5-£27.50, 140 mins.

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED) Reduced Shakespeare Company last-forward through 37 plays, Criterion Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1747) & Picc Circ, Wed-Sat 7pm, [5] 3pm, [7] 5pm, Sun 4pm, £9.50-£20, 120 mins.

ELTON JOHN'S GLASSES David Farr's comedy about one man's obsession with the World Football Club and their failure to win the Cup Final in 1984, Queen's Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) & Picc Circ, Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8pm, [4] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £10.50-£27.50, 140 mins.

GAS STATION ANGEL Story of two lovers who are forced to meet from the creator of House Of America, Not suitable for children, Royal Court Upstairs (at The Ambassadors) West Street, WC2 (0171-565 5000) & Leic Sq, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [7] 4pm, ends 27 Jun, £5-£10, benches 10pm, Mon & mail - all seats £5.

GREASE Marissa Dunlop stars in the stage version of the hit film, Cambridge Earls Court, WC2 (0171-494 5080) & Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 7.30pm, £10-£30, 150 mins.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND Christopher Cazenove and Kate O'Mara star in Peter Hall's production of Wilde's comedy, Albany St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730/cc 887 1111) & Leic Sq, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £7.50-£29.50, 165 mins.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen Daldry's widely-acclaimed production of JB Priestley's thriller, Cecil Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085) & Leic Sq, Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 5pm, £10.50-£25, 110 mins.

KAT AND THE KINGS Musical set in 1950s Cape Town, Vaudeville Strand, WC2 (0171-936 9987) BR/4. Charing X, Mon-Thu 8pm, Fri-Sat 5.30pm & 8.30pm, £5-£25-£27.50, 130 mins.

A LETTER OF RESIGNATION Hugh Whitmore's play about the Profumo affair and political morality, Savoy Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888/cc 836 0479) & Charing X/Embankment, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £12.50-£25, 135 mins.

MAJOR BARBARA Jenna Redgrave and Peter Bowles star in George Bernard Shaw's classic comedy, Piccadilly Denham Street, W1 (0171-369 1734) & Picc Circ, in rep, tonight 2.30pm, continuing, £5-£27.50, 110 mins.

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE Shakespeare's cross cultural comedy of love and money, The Globe New Globe Walk, SE1 (0171-401 9919) & London Bridge, in rep, today 2pm, ends 19 Sep, £5-£20, concs available.

MISERABLES Musical dramatisation of Victor Hugo's masterpiece, Palace Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-434 0809) & Picc Circ, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 7.30pm, £7-£32.50, 195 mins.

THE MISANTHROPE Elaine Paige, Michael Pennington, Peter Bowles and Anna Carter star in Ranjit Bolt's new translation of Moliere's comedy, Piccadilly Denham Street, W1 (0171-369 1734) & Picc Circ, in rep, tonight 7.45pm, continuing, £5-£27.50, concs £12.50, 140 mins.

MISS SAIGON Musical which retells the Madam Butterfly tragedy to Vietnam, Theatre Royal, Drury Lane Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-494 5060) & Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4] 7.30pm, £5.75-£32.50, 165 mins.

THE MOUSETRAP Agatha Christie's long-running whodunnit, St Martin's West Street, WC2 (0171-836 1443) & Leic Sq, Mon-Sat 8pm, [3] 2.45pm, [7] 5pm, £9-£23, 135 mins.

MUCH ADO ABOUT

NOTHING

Nothing Declan Donnellan directs Cheek by Jowl in a new production of Shakespeare's classic, Playhouse Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (0171-639 4401/cc 316 4747) & Embankment, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5] 7.30pm, ends 25 Jul, £10-£22.

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical, Her Majesty's Haymarket, SW1 (0171-494 5400/cc 344 4444) & Picc Circ, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4] 7.30pm, £10-£32.50, 150 mins.

POPCORN Lawrence Russell directs Ben Elton's satire on cinema violence, Apollo Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070) & Picc Circ, Mon-Sat 8pm, [4] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £5.50-£23.50, 150 mins.

THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND & BLACK COMEDY Double bill of drama from Tom Stoppard and Peter Schaffer, directed by Gregory Doran, Comedy Pantom Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731) & Picc Circ/Leic Sq, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 7.30pm, £7.50-£27.50, 165 mins.

RENT Musical inspired by La Boheme and set in modern day New York, Shaftesbury Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5999) & Holborn/Totl Ct Rd, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 7.30pm, £12.50-£32.50, 160 mins.

ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE A Olivier Branded Off Moving drama about the home-blowing miners of the closing Grimsby Colliery, in rep, tonight 7.15pm, ends 24 Jun.

LYTELLO David Harewood in Sam Mendes' production of Shakespeare's tragedy, in rep, tonight 7pm, ends 13 Jun, 210 mins.

COTTESSIDE Copenhagen New drama from Michael Frayn about the discovery of the atom, in rep, tonight 7.30pm, continuing, Olivier & Lyttelton £9-£27, Colston: £12-£18, Day seats from 10pm, South Bank, SE1 (0171-452 3000) & Embankment.

SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER Hit 1970s musical featuring songs by the Bee Gees, including their new tracks, London Palladium Angel Street, W1 (0171-494 5020) & Oxford Circ, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 7.30pm, £10-£32.50, 135 mins.

SHOW BOAT Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein's musical set on the Mississippi, Prince Edward Old Compton Street, W1 (0171-447 5400) & Leic Sq/Totl Ct Rd, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5] 7.30pm, £10-£35, 180 mins.

SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE - THE SONGS OF LEIBER AND STOLLER The rock and roll hitmakers celebrated in a musical revue that includes Jailhouse Rock, Prince of Wales Coventry Street, W1 (0171-839 5972) & Leic Sq/Picc Circ, Mon-Thu 8pm, Fri 5.45pm & 8.30pm, Sat 3pm & 8pm, £15-£32.50, Fri mats £10-£25, 135 mins.

STARLIGHT EXPRESS Andrew Lloyd Webber's hit-tech roller-skating musical, Apollo Victoria Victoria Road, SW1 (0171-416 6070) BR/4. Picc Circ, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, £12.50-£30, 150 mins.

SWEET CHARITY Bonnie Langford stars in this classic musical, featuring the numbers Hey Big Spender and the Rhythm Of Life, Victoria Palace Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-834 1317) BR/4. Victoria, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 7.30pm, £15-£30.

THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE Jane Asher stars in Alan Ayckbourn's comedy, Gielgud Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) & Picc Circ, Mon-Fri 7.45pm, [5] 7.30pm, £10.50-£27.50, 140 mins.

3 BY PINTER: A KIND OF ALASKA Bill Nighy and Penelope Wilton star in the revival of this Pinter classic, Donmar Warehouse Earls Court, WC2 (0171-369 1732) & Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4] 7.30pm, £10-£25.

3 BY PINTER: THE COLLECTION & THE LOVER Pinter stars in a double bill of his own

THURSDAY RADIO

PICK OF THE DAY

The afternoon play, *Parson Skinner* of Camerton (2.15pm R4), is based on the diaries of a curmudgeonly Somerset parson of the early 19th century, and not to be confused with Eric Pringle's drama series *Parson* and *Pig-Killers*, broadcast two years ago, which was based on the diaries of a different curmudgeonly Somerset parson of the early 19th century. How many more of them can there be? Listening to Kate Withers play - really a feature with

dramatised interludes - you are transported to a bleak, impoverished and isolated world: the new Radio 4, which is strikingly like the old Radio 4, but with less money. Performance on 3 (7.30pm R3, right) offers a concert by the LSO under Michael Tilson Thomas, featuring Mahler, Ives and Bernstein: baritone Thomas Hampson and pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet lend charisma to the proceedings.

ROBERT HANKS



RADIO 1
(97.8-98.8MHz FM)
6.30 Kevin Greening and Zoe Ball
9.00 Simon Mayo. 12.00 Jo
Whaley. 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00
Dave Pearce. 6.30 Steve Lamacq
the Evening Session. 8.30 Live
Music Update. 8.40 John Peel.
10.30 Jayne Middlemiss. 1.00
Clive Warren. 4.00 Chris Moyles.

RADIO 2
(88-90.2MHz FM)
6.00 Alex Lester. 7.30 Sarah
Kennedy. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00
Debbie Thompson. 2.00 Ed Stewart.
5.05 John Dunn. 7.00 David Allen.
8.00 Paul Jones. 9.00 The Impro
Musical. 10.30 The News Huddies.
10.00 Paul Gambaccini's
Inside Track. 10.30 Richard
Allinson. 12.05 Steve Madden.
3.00 - 6.00 Jeff Owen.

RADIO 3
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air.
9.00 Masterworks.
10.30 Artist of the Week.
11.00 Sound Stories.
12.00 Composer of the Week.
1.00 Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert.
2.00 The BBC Orchestra.
4.00 The Piano.
4.45 Music Machine. (R)
5.00 In Tune.
7.30 Performance on 3. A concert
given in April at the Barbican Centre,
London. Conductor Michael Tilson
Thomas. Thomas Hampson (baritone),
Jean-Yves Thibaudet (piano).
Mahler: Adagio (Symphony No 10).
Ives: The New River, The Pond; The
Housatonic at Stockbridge (orch
Johnson); Charlie Rautage; Serenity
(orch Adams); General William
Booth Enters into Heaven. Bernstein:
Symphony No 2 (The Age of Ancestry).
See Pick of the Day.

9.45 Postscript. Five programmes
this week examining the history,
culture and inhabitants of the dy-
namic New York borough that was
once a city in its own right and has
played a major part in inventing
America. 4: 'Take Me Out to the
Ball Game'. The Brooklyn Dodgers
were more than just a baseball
team - they were a Brooklyn institu-
tion. Then, in the late 50s, the un-
thinkable happened - the Dodgers
owner moved the team out of
Brooklyn and into Los Angeles. Tim
Marlow examines the effect this

had on the borough with the help
of Roger Kahn - author of the
award-winning 'The Boys of Sum-
mer'.
9.40 Puccini's Transformed.
Stravinsky's 'Suite italienne' played
by Igor Strakosky (violin) and Natalia
Serzajova (piano).
10.00 Music Restored. 'Tintagel'. A
concert given last month in St
Mary's Church, Beverley, as part of
the Beverley Early Music Festival.
Inspired by the 12th-century
troubadour and patron of the arts -
this programme depicts her hypo-
thetical journey through the me-
dieval Iberian peninsula and its
diverse musical heritage. Rebecca
Austen-Brown
(harp/lute/recorder), Rachel
Hamilton (harp/lute), Clara
Sanabrias (voice/lute), Louise
Strickland (recorder), Tim Rayborn
(psaltery/percussion).
10.45 Night Waves. Europe has
long prided itself on being the nat-
ural home of freedom and democ-
racy, but is it more truly seen as a
breeding ground of savage ideol-
ogy and barbarism? Paul Allen dis-
cusses 'Dark Continent', in which
historian Mark Mazower argues that
hope for Europe's future lies in
looking less complacently on its
past.
11.30 Jazz Notes.
12.00 Composer of the Week
1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4
(92.4-94.6MHz FM)
6.00 Today.

9.00 The Candidate.
9.30 Strange Weather Days.
9.45 Serial: Round Ireland with a
Fridge.
10.00 NEWS; Woman's Hour.
11.00 NEWS; From Our Own Cor-
respondent.
11.30 Rent 4.
12.00 NEWS; You and Yours.
1.00 The World at One.
1.30 Puzzle Panel.
2.00 News. The Archers.
2.45 Afternoon Play: Parson Skinner
of Camerton. See Pick of the Day.
3.00 NEWS; Call You and Yours
(077) 580 4444.
3.30 Transatlantics.
3.45 Film.
4.00 NEWS; Law in Action.
4.30 The Material World.
5.00 PM.
6.00 Six O'Clock News.
6.30 Goodness Gracious Me.
7.00 NEWS; The Archers.
7.45 Front Row. Francine Stock pre-
sents the nightly live arts pro-
gramme.
7.45 Postcards: The Real Dennis
Truolova. By Dave Sheasby (4/5).
8.00 NEWS; Rottentom Assemblies.
The last of three programmes in
which Martin Wainwright investi-
gates occasions when British peo-
ple, driven beyond endurance,
made their presence felt on the
streets. 3: 'The Means-Test
Protest'. In 1931, the introduction of
compulsory means-testing led to a
furious reaction by the people of
Salford.
8.30 The Week in Westminster.
9.00 NEWS; Leading Edge.

9.30 The Candidate. Jonathan
Dimbleby interviews a high-profile
applicant for his or her fantasy job.
10.00 The World Tonight.
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Master
George. Beryl Bainbridge's latest
novel is abridged by Pauline Wallis.
Organised as an account of the
taking of six photographs, the book
explores the feelings and lives of
three people who are each depen-
dent on the solon of a well-to-do
Victorian family. '1854 - Tug of War
beside the Sweet Waters of Europe
(part 1)'. Read by Richard Griffiths
(4/10).
11.00 If You're So Clever, Why
Aren't You Rich?. A four-part series
of Paul Shears and Richard Tur-
ner's comedy drama about three
not-so-young things sharing a flat.
Starring Tony Slattery, Amanda
Root and Paul Bigley. 3: 'Rain'.
When rain pours in through the cel-
ling of their rented flat in Streatham,
David is terrified that the landlord
will discover that he does not live
alone.
11.30 Whistling in the Wind.
12.00 News.
12.30 The Late Book: Psycho.
12.48 Shipping Forecast.
1.00 All World Service.
5.30 World News.
5.35 Shipping Forecast.
5.40 Inshore Forecast.
5.45 Prayer for the Day.
5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

RADIO 4 LW
(188kHz)
9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00
- 12.04 News Headlines; Shipping.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

There are many quibbles that
could be levelled against *Brave-
heart* (9pm Sky Movies Screen
1, right), an epic account of the
life and times of Scottish folk-hero
William Wallace. Not least of
these is the fact that director and
star Mel Gibson over-eggs the
pudding in his depiction of the
wholly irredeemable English
under King Edward I (Patrick
McGoohan). However, there is no
doubting the visceral power of his
film, which rightly scooped a
fistful of Oscars, including Best

Picture, Best Director, and Best
Cinematography (for John Toll).
Cinema serial killers are big box-
office - witness the huge success
of *The Silence of the Lambs*.
They are equally ratings-grabbing
as the subject of documentaries.
'Fatal Compulsion' (Forensic
Detectives, 10pm Discovery)
explores the minds of such mass-
murderers as Ted Bundy, Alleen
Wormes and Paul Bernardo, and
how detectives went about
catching them.

JAMES RAMPTON



SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1
6.00 What Happened to Santiago? (1998)
(8307). 8.00 Another Woman (1989)
(2758). 9.30 Lionheart: The Children
of the Bride Part 1 (1995) (85544). 1.30 An-
other Woman (1989) (2758). 3.00 Cap-
tive Hearts (1987) (22482). 5.00
Lionheart: The Children of the Bride Part 2
(1995) (85545). 7.00 Father of the Bride Part
1 (1991) (77533). 9.00 Bratwurst (1995)
See Pick of the Day (8927272). 11.55
The Underneath (1995) (89146). 1.35
Panther (1995) (892457). 3.40 - 6.00
Shoofies Go to College (1990) (8533305).

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2
6.00 It's Only Money (1982) (83098).
9.00 3 Women (1977) (8047324). 10.05
(and Hanna) (1994) (8954850). 12.00
The Underworld (1997) (85688). 2.00 3
Women (1977) (8534614). 4.05 It's Only
Money (1982) (83098). 6.00 The Un-
derworld (1997) (85688). 7.40 US Top
Tan (1985). 9.00 A Modern Affair
(1994) (83094). 10.00 The Long Kiss
Goodnight (1996) (23481). 12.00 Body of
Influence 2 (1995) (440068). 1.35 The
Passion of Darky Noon (1995) (893725).
3.20 - 6.00 Othello (1995) (8940583).

SKY MOVIES GOLD
4.00 A Farewell to Arms (1957)
(892188). 6.30 Bringing Up Baby
(1939) (218330). 8.45 Big Trouble in Little
China (1986) (8334098). 10.00 Alice
Doesn't Live Here Anymore (1974)
(847878). 11.55 The Krays (1990)
(847275). 1.55 Like Father, Like Son
(1987) (893947). 3.35 Boy on a Dolphin
(1957) (807706). 5.35 Close.

BRITV
8.00 The A-Team (864298). 9.00
Real Stories of the Highway Patrol
(862545). 9.30 Cops (788904).
10.00 Italian Stripping Housewives
(754943). 11.00 Films: First Blood
(1982) (864370). 1.00 Beverly Hills Bor-
dello (445588). 3.00 Italian Stripping
Housewives (860790). 4.00 Real Stories
of the Highway Patrol (788904).
5.00 Cops (775705). 6.00 Films: The
Raffie (1994) (790338). 8.00 - 6.00
The A-Team (747014).

DISCOVERY CHANNEL
4.00 Rex Hunts Fishing World (770168).
4.30 Zoo Story (775705). 5.00 First
Flights (24781). 5.30 Terra X (771633).
6.00 Animal Doctor (775454). 6.30 Dis-
aster Oracles (257350). 7.30 Dis-

ter (775732). 8.00 Science Frontiers
(846143). 9.00 Flightline (892482). 9.30
Ultra Science (781850). 10.00 Forensic
Detectives See Pick of the Day (861091).
11.00 The Professionals (202633).
12.00 First Flights (843472). 1.30 Dis-
aster (862550). 1.55 The Banquet Bush-
man (804637). 2.00 Close.

SKY 1
7.00 Tattooed Teenage Alien Fighters
from Beverly Hills (82701). 7.30 Games
World (895421). 7.45 The Simpsons
(76189). 8.45 The Oprah Winfrey Show
(1340343). 9.00 Hotel (89866). 10.00
Another World (84492). 11.00 Days of
Our Lives (87255). 12.00 Married with
Children (78701). 12.30 M*A*S*H
(55594). 1.00 Geraldo (83028). 2.00
Sally Jessy Raphael (24053). 3.00 Jen-
ny Jones (13430). 4.00 The Oprah Win-
frey Show (23472). 5.00 Star Trek: The
Next Generation (70353). 6.00 The Her-
nery (8508). 6.30 Married with Children
(78701). 7.00 The Simpsons (8782). 7.30
The Simpsons (7072). 8.00 America's
Dumbest Criminals (7430). 8.30 Seinfeld
(8237). 9.00 Friends (89121). 9.30
Friends (84850). 10.00 Friends (79430).
10.30 Friends (85583). 11.00 Star Trek:
The Next Generation (48121). 12.00
JFK: Reckless Youth (37825). 1.00 -
7.00 Sports 1 (444584).

SKY SPORTS 1
7.00 Sky Sports Centre (864382). 7.30
World Wrestling Federation Shotgun
(8663218). 4.50 Nightscreen (8942837).

SKY SPORTS 2
7.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (894237). 7.30
Sky Sports Centre (864382). 7.45 Rac-
ing News (825458). 8.15 Full Throttle
(85944). 8.45 Sky Sports Centre
(864382). 9.00 Fish TV: American Out-
doors (850808). 9.30 Fish TV: Fishing
Tales (82769). 10.00 World of Super
League with Eddie and Steve (430633).
12.00 Snooker (844548). 2.00 Sports
Unlimited (825471). 3.00 Full Throttle
(85944). 3.30 World of Super League
with Eddie and Steve (430633). 5.30
Rebel Sports (833482). 6.00
Showjumping Grand Prix (8658633).
6.30 Inside the PGA Tour (852868).
6.50 Tiger Line (833273). 8.00 Motor
Racing - Indy True Value 500 (861641).
10.00 Ford USA (803757). 12.00
Showjumping Grand Prix (8658633).
12.30 Sky Sports Centre (864382).

SKY SPORTS 3
12.00 World Wrestling Federation Super-
stars (8650527). 1.00 Fish TV: The
Weekend Fisherman (5082508). 1.30
Fish TV: The Ultimate Fishing Show
(854943). 2.00 Pops of Gold
(8590140). 2.30 Dicksie Davis's Sport-
ing Heroes Sir Roger Bannister
(8598825). 3.00 Motorcycling
(867189). 4.30 Full Throttle (864382).
5.00 World Wrestling Federation Super-
stars (8650527). 6.00 Sports
(8644072). 6.30 Formula Three Racing
(8643324). 7.00 Euro Tour Golf - Com-
pact European Grand Prix (860794).
(85945). 8.45 Sky Sports Centre
(864382). 9.00 Fish TV: American Out-
doors (850808). 9.30 Fish TV: Fishing
Tales (82769). 10.00 World of Super
League with Eddie and Steve (430633).
12.00 Snooker (844548). 2.00 Sports
Unlimited (825471). 3.00 Full Throttle
(85944). 3.30 World of Super League
with Eddie and Steve (430633). 5.30
Rebel Sports (833482). 6.00
Showjumping Grand Prix (8658633).
6.30 Inside the PGA Tour (852868).
6.50 Tiger Line (833273). 8.00 Motor
Racing - Indy True Value 500 (861641).
10.00 Ford USA (803757). 12.00
Showjumping Grand Prix (8658633).
12.30 Sky Sports Centre (864382).

EUROSPORT
6.00 Football: World Cup 98 (85275).
7.30 Football: World Cup 98 (8246237).
12.00 Football: World Cup 98 (42576).
12.00 Tennis (85188). 2.00 Tennis
(86933). 4.00 Football: World Cup 98
Italy v Chile (86933). 6.30 Football:
World Cup 98 (85546). 7.30 Football:
World Cup 98 Austria v Cameroon
(830459). 10.00 Football: World Cup 98
Italy v Chile (85270). 12.00 Football:
World Cup 98 (22947). 12.30 Close.

UK GOLD
10.00 Never the Twin (870527). 7.35
Neighbors (880546). 8.00 Crossroads
(862807). 8.25 EastEnders (808469).
9.00 The Bill (782721). 12.30 Howards
Way (783258). 10.00 Dury Duty
(874578). 10.30 The Sullivan (755833).
11.00 Casualty (201488). 12.00 Cross-
roads (8623043). 12.55 EastEnders
(8623343). 1.00 Mothers Do 'Em
(854487). 2.40 Open All Hours (276321).
2.45 Dangerfield (8829508). 3.45 The
Bill (827508). 4.45 Jai! Bravo (807221).
5.20 EastEnders (882403). 5.55 Big
Break (304658). 6.30 The Bill (770259).
7.00 The Comedy Alternative: Last of
the Summer Wine (88343). 7.40 The Co-
medy Alternative: Waiting for God (883548).
8.20 The Comedy Alternative: Butterflies
(224647). 9.00 Bugs (7882914). 10.05
Bottom (487355). 10.45 Comic Strip
Presentations (865877). 11.25 Live at Jon-
gleurs (827810). 12.00 Films: The Night
Before (1987) (748560). 1.30 The Equi-
librium (861034). 2.35 100 Years of Horror
(855876). 2.45 - 7.00 Shopping at
Net (8670980).

LIVING
6.00 Tiny Living (891885). 9.00 Rolan-
da (864444). 9.30 Ready, Steady, Cook
(820889). 10.30 The Young and the
Restless (873290). 11.20 Brookside
(1037208). 11.50 Jimmy's (8948614). 12.50
Rescue 911 (875782). 1.25 Hart to Hart
(8094850). 2.20 Living It Up (830503).
3.20 Rolan (408712). 4.40 Tompess
(859343). 5.00 The Heat is On
(737255). 5.30 Ready, Steady, Cook
(825782). 6.30 Jerry Springer Unleashed
(828947). 7.00 Rescue 911 (785142).
7.30 Mysteries, Magic and Miracles
(103650). 8.00 Adrenaline Junkies
(867189). 8.30 Films: Stargate (1994)
(8739508). 11.00 Jerry Springer After
Hours (861904). 12.00 Close.

TNT
9.00 Films: Cold Sassy Tree (1988)
(4685508). 11.00 Films: Butterfield 8
(1960) (2203362). 1.00 Films: The
Americanization of Emily (1964)
(2203362). 3.00 Films: Cold Sassy Tree
(1988) (4685508). 5.00 Close.

WESTCOUNTRY
As Carlton except: 10.30 This
Morning (828888). 12.15 Westcountry
News (121411). 12.30 11 Illuminations
(86145). 1.00 Emmerdale (86508).
6.30 Westcountry News (828888). 10.30
Street Legal (73140). 12.40 The Jerry
Springer Show (898075). 1.30 SPX
(86183). 1.55 Planet Mirth (86707).
2.25 Not Fade Away (224622). 3.20
The Chart Show (401883). 4.35 Vanessa
(8663218). 4.50 ITV
Nightscreen (84812).

YORKSHIRE
As Carlton except: 10.30 This
Morning (828888). 12.15 Calendar
News and Weather (121411). 1.00 Home
and Away (81121). 2.00 The Jerry
Springer Show (898075). 3.20
Meridian News and Weather (829430).
6.50 Meridian Tonight (40256). 10.30

5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast.

11.30 - 12.00 Today in Parliament.

RADIO 5 LIVE
(93.3, 90.9kHz MW)
6.00 The Breakfast Programme.
9.00 Nicky Campbell.
12.00 The Midday News.
1.00 Ruscoe and Co.
4.00 Nationwide and World Cup
98.
7.00 News Extra.
7.30 World Cup 98. John Inverdale
introduces commentary from John
Murray, Dave Woods and Jimmy
Armfield in Toulouse, where
Cameroon take on Austria.
10.00 Late Night Live. With Nick
Robinson. Including the day's
sports round-up at 10.30, a late
night news briefing at 11.00, and
11.15 The Financial World Tonight.
1.00 Up All Night.
5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM
(100.0-101.9MHz FM)
6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kel-
ly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concer-
to. 3.00 Jamie Cullum. 6.30
Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics
at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert.
11.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Concerto.
3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

VIRGIN RADIO
(125.187-126.04kHz MW 105.8MHz FM)
7.00 Chris Evans. 10.00 Russ
Williams. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00
Paul Coyte / FM only Ray Cokes
from 8.45. 7.30 Ray Cokes. 10.00
Mark Forrest. 2.00 Cairn Jones.
5.00 - 7.00 Jeremy Clark.

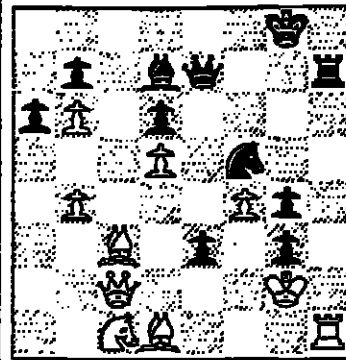
WORLD SERVICE
(198kHz LW)
1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 Westway.
1.45 Britain Today. 2.00 News-
desk. 2.30 Composer of the
Month. 3.00 Newsday. 3.30 Focus
on Faith. 4.00 World News. 4.05
Business Report. 4.35 Sports
Roundup. 4.50 The World Today
(0430-0700)/Insight (SW 5875kHz-
only). 4.45 Off the Shelf: The Tailor
of Panama. 5.30 Outlook (SW
7235kHz only). 5.55 - 6.30 Sci-
ence View (SW 7235kHz only).

TALK RADIO
6.00 Kirsty Young and Jeremy
Nicholas. 9.00 Scott Chisholm.
12.00 Lorraine Kelly. 2.00 Tommy
Boyd. 4.30 Commentary of Italy v
Chile. 7.00 Anna Rasmussen. 9.00
James Whale. 1.00 Ian Collins.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

WILLIAM HARTSTON



dynamism, with the other knight
suddenly freed from passivity on g7
to play a full attacking role.
The final combination (see dia-
gram) with 37...e2! freeing e3 for
the knight was very neat.

White: Simon Agdestein

Black: Juan Becerra

Havana 1998

1 d4 Nf5	22 Bd4 Nf5
2 c4 g5	23 Nb6 Bxb6
3 Nc3 Bg7	24 axb6 Bx7
4 e4 d6	25 Rg3 Ng4
5 f3 0-0	26 h3 Rac8
6 Bg5 a6	27 bxc4 bxc4
7 Nge2 Nbd7	28 Re3 Nf5
8 Nc1 c5	29 Qd2 Q7
9 a4 e5	30 Ba1 Qe7
10 d5 h6	31 g3 h4
11 Be3 cxd5	32 Bd1 bxc3
12 cxd5 Ne8	33 Kg2 Rf7
13 Be2 f5	34 Rh1 Rh7
14 exf5 gxf5	35 Rxc3 Rxc3
15 0-0 Qf6	36 Bxc3 e3
16 a5 Qg6	37 Qc2 e2
17 Kh1 Bf6	38 Qxe2 Ne3+
18 f4 Ng7	39 Kg1 Rb1+
19 Na4 Bda	40 Ksh1 Qh4+
20 Bc1 c5	41 Kg1 e2
21 Ra3 e4	White resigned

DON'T BE taken in by all the pro-
paganda. There really is nothing
very interesting about a lot of men
kicking footballs around in France.
Now a footballer playing chess ...
that's interesting!

The loser of today's game is a
grandmaster who used to play foot-
ball for Norway and Aberdeen. He
was a piece up at half-time, but his
defenders simply did not have the
speed to keep up with Black's play
on the right wing.

White's whole idea of 25.Rg3 and
26.h3 may have been faulty. Once
Black had lost one knight, his po-
sition was transformed to full

POKER

DAVID SPANIER

I CLICKED on the Internet (my
new toy) and told it to search for
"poker". It listed 31,100 entries.
Dedicated to the game as I am, I
wasn't sure I could surf through
quite so many items, even in a
week. Then a friend advised me to
try <http://eppa.bigfoot.com>, which
did the trick. Up came a series of
buttons listing various topics, some
more useful than others.

This is a website run by the pio-
neering European Poker Players'
Association. First I tried the News
Update button. This gave the tour-
nament schedule in Europe. Then
I got the European poker rank-
ings, rather like the international
tennis rankings, as compiled by
the EPPA. Several British players

craps, video poker, and general
gambling topics from the publish-
ers", their blurb states.

The excellent Conjelco service
also provides a blow-by-blow
account of each successive event in
the World Series of Poker. It is a
labour of love performed by Jim
Sims, an enthusiastic recorder of
poker news, living in Las Vegas. He
and his colleagues do this job,
which also has some historical
value, to promote the book-selling
operation. "Poker on the net will
never replace books," Sims told
me - which is reassuring to those
of us non-computer-nerds who
have been brought up on the
printed word.

Another way into the Net is via
the Las Vegas pair of authors
David Sklansky and Mason Malmuth.
Apart from their series of
books, they offer various gambling
essays on screen, and challenging
items such as a poker quiz. What I
have not yet tried is actually play-
ing poker for money (via a credit
card) on the Net. If this is on offer,
as I believe it is for casino gambling,
it would seem to me a very risky
business. If any readers have first-
hand experience of gambling on the
Net, please drop me a line here at
The Independent.

I have no doubt that there is
much more to learn from poker on
the Net, but this is a start.

PUZZLE

WHICH OF the following is the odd

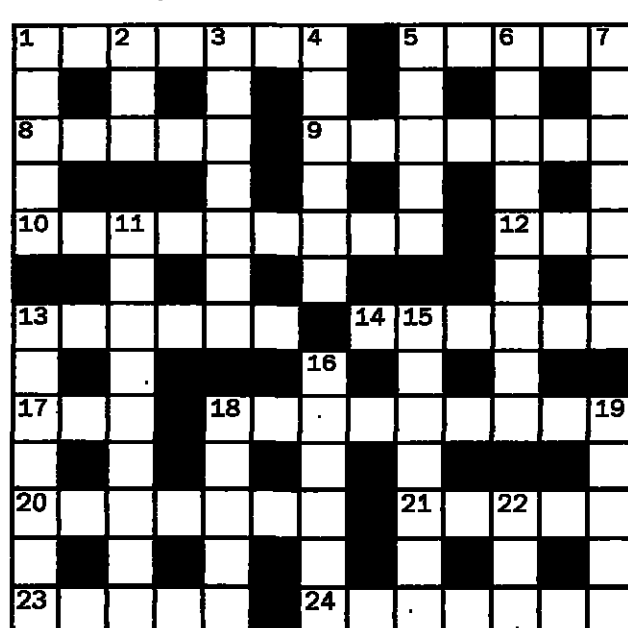
pair out:
1) EQUAL - CONTEST
2) BEAK - INVOICE
3) EXERCISE - LOCOMOTIVE
4) LARGE - FIREPLACE
5) RUBBISH - BOAT
... and why is the odd pair a
near-miss? (Answer tomorrow).

Yesterday's answer: 43

(Any number divisible by 3, other
than 3 itself, may be made up of 6s
and 9s; any number >23 that
leaves a remainder of 2 when di-
vided by 3 may be made from one 20
plus 6s and 9s; any number >43
leaving a remainder 1 may be
made from two 20s plus 6s and 9s.)

CONCISE CROSSWORD

No.3634 Thursday 11 June



ACROSS

1 Multiplied by two (7)
5 Pet rabbit's home (5)
8 Man-made watercourse (5)
9 Dental procedure (7)
10 Make worse (9)
12 Poem (3)
13 Holdups (6

